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THE
BELFAST MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

CONTAINING

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AND SELECTED.**

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POETRY.

DETACHED ANECDOTES.

REVIEW OF NEW PUBLICATIONS.

**FOREIGN, ANCIENT, AND MO-
DERN LITERATURE.**

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CELESTIAL PHENOMENA:

*"The first and most sacred of all Property is Thought, and the first duty of a Philosopher and
"Freeman is to communicate his opinion to his Country whatever may be its success."*

VOL. IV.

FROM JANUARY TILL JUNE, 1810.

Belfast:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY SMYTH & LYONS.

115, HIGH-STREET.

To whom Communications (post paid) are to be addressed.

1810.

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ROY WOOD
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WOOD

BELFAST MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

No. 18.]

JANUARY 31, 1810.

[Vol. 4.

COMMUNICATIONS, ORIGINAL AND SELECTED.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON LUNATIC ASYLUMS.

FOR some little time past, my attention has been turned towards the present state of the principal Lunatic Asylums in and about London; and in the course of my visits to these abodes of mental disorder, I could not but experience a variety of emotions—many, it will readily be supposed, of sorrow and compassion for suffering humanity—but, some, I must confess, of pleasure and satisfaction. The calamity of reason dethroned is indeed to be deplored, but the wisdom that restores her lost empire cannot be sufficiently admired. I did not undertake this survey, from any expectation, that my own observations could suggest any thing useful: But, considering the advances which have been made within the last 20 or 30 years in the science of political and moral economy, if I may be allowed the latter expression, I was desirous to compare the present mode of treating the unhappy objects of Insanity, with the practice of former times, in order that I might discover the degree of enlightened humanity to which the present age has attained, concerning a subject so interesting to every inhabitant of every nation.

We have, indeed, some reason to congratulate our country when we regard the numerous hospitals and charitable institutions, established of late years in this metropolis, and in most parts of the British Empire, supported too in the most liberal manner, and conducted upon the wisest plans of economy. We cannot but reflect—these are all of a date comparatively recent—poverty and disease have always existed: How then did our ancestors support their existence under evils so incident to

man, without establishments which now appear so necessary and indispensable? To aggravate the misery, disease and poverty sunk the wretched victim in loathsome filth, and even the few public receptacles rather deterred by their noisome uncleanness and careless management, than invited the diseased by an appearance of comfort to enter their walls.

Even to the time of the benevolent Howard, many hospitals as well as prisons in Great Britain and on the Continent were rather a disgrace to humanity, than the emblems of charity or justice. By the inestimable labours of this great Philanthropist, which the celebrated Burke eloquently termed “a voyage of discovery—a circumnavigation of charity,” ~~how greatly has the sum of human misery been diminished!~~ and, during the short period of his own life, what a happy change was wrought all over Europe! We need but look over his pages to discover, ~~in what state he found numerous unhappy beings,~~ deprived of their reason; either wandering about without restraint, the objects of horror or of pity; or, confounded with felons in common jails; or lastly, under ignorant and unfeeling keepers, in the gloomy cell of a workhouse, condemned to clank their chains night and day, upon the stony floor—in winter, perishing with cold—in summer, without even the refreshment of a Bath to cleanse the feverish body from its accumulated filth.*

* “In some few gaols are confined Lunatics and Idiots. These serve for sport to idle visitants at Annizes, and other times of general resort.

“Many of the Bridewells are crowded and offensive, because the rooms which were designed for prisoners are occupied by the insane. When these are not

It is almost impossible to conceive that, for so many past ages, the situation of the Maniac should have engaged so little the attention of enlightened politicians, or of wise and disinterested men; that the sentiment of the vulgar should have been so long *practically* entertained, of madness being an incurable disorder, (as though an instance of recovery from that degraded state had never occurred within their knowledge) that no public efforts were made, no system of wholesome and humane treatment adopted, to restore the wanderings of a disordered imagination, to restore in fact, a man to himself—a citizen of the world to his proper rank in the scale of rational existence.

But, what shall we say of *their sagacity*, who, when they had faintly discovered, that a restoration from this humiliating state was not impossible, permitted or used blows and stripes, with horrible barbarity and ignorance, to correct the ravings of men, *who knew not* that they had erred in any way to deserve a punishment so cruel? We are necessitated to conclude that the world is progressively growing wiser, seeing we now find that kindness will produce a soothing effect upon the affections, and will often succeed in calming the fury of a turbulent insane; when harsh means would have exasperated him to all the horrors of determined vengeance. The affections are not therefore extinguished, because the controul of reason may have been for a time suspended.* And the rule will as well apply to raging madmen

kept separate, they disturb and terrify other prisoners. No care is taken of them, although it is probable that by medicines and proper regimen, some of them might be restored to their sense and to usefulness in life."—Howard on prisons. Sect. 1, p. 8.

* "I cannot avoid giving my most decided suffrage," says Pinel, in favour of the *moral qualities* of maniacs. I have no where met, except in romances, with fonder husbands, more affectionate parents, more empasionated lovers, more pure and exalted patriots, than in the lunatic asylum, during their intervals of calmness and reason. Vid. *Pinel on Insanity*, s. 5.

as to children, with regard to its practical effect, that the dominion of fear will not produce a moral change like the dominion of confidence and esteem. Yet, I apprehend, every one will be inclined to confess, because from earliest infancy he has associated together the ideas of fury, Bedlam and chains, that, he thinks it so necessary that lunatics should be confined and kept in awe, he has always been used to regard the name of a mad-house with horror. I am far from thinking, that any thing I may have to communicate, respecting the interior of these receptacles,—“the secrets of the prison house”—will remove the natural impression of awful terror and sympathy for man's fallen dignity, which must strike every feeling mind. But I am inclined to believe that many of the particulars which I shall introduce amongst the observations that I may have to make upon the present state of Lunatic Asylums in England and on the Continent, will not be read without interest by those who value, as they ought, the possession of their reason—perhaps with something like that compassionate tenderness for suffering humanity, and gratitude to the source of wisdom, which are felt on reading the melancholy tale of a shipwreck; in which a favourite traveller is represented as being cast away *senectas*, upon some distant shore, destined however, after toils and dangers to recover not only the strength of his body, but the vigour of his mind. The wreck of intellect, when complete, is indeed a mournful subject for reflection; and the blameless form which was once governed by reason, is contemplated by many with more horror than the wretch who has degraded his nature, and dishonoured the surviving gift of reason with the infamy of some wicked crime. Whence arises this strange prepossession unless from ignorance of the cause? “Non unus mentes agitat furor.”* The man who is deeply versed in experience of the aberrations of reason, knows that there are some species of Insanity, which, with proper treatment are curable; and others he is accustomed to re-

gard as diseases of the body, which require throughout the gentlest and most watchful care. He also knows that the fury of the raging maniac is frequently coercible even without violence, and that he whom chains made more furious and indignant, has often yielded calm obedience when an enlightened keeper set him free.

It would, however, ill become me, who have only, as it were, weighed the experience of others in my own mind, to lay down any general rules, or to express myself upon this subject, with the least degree of presuming confidence in my own opinions. I profess only to be the reporter of a few facts from one country to another, facts which I have learned from those whom I consider well qualified to be instructors in the humane and wise treatment of insanity. For, although unacquainted with that enthusiasm of ardour for public fame, which hurries thousands to publish crude and indigested opinions to the world, that only serve to exemplify by their fate the truth of Cicero's wise remark, 'opinionum commenta delet dies'—I may at least suppose myself competent to describe what I have seen and heard; and without the charge of vanity, may be allowed to offer myself as the medium of conveying truths, to the discovery of which I can lay no possible claim. To say the truth, I cannot but feel an earnest and patriotic wish, that my native country should see her lunatic asylums established upon the firmest foundation, and managed by the most benevolent and enlightened regulations of internal economy.

Where the object is of such vast importance to the future character and interests of Ireland, even if my own communications should contain nothing interesting or new, yet I am so sanguine as to believe they may have the effect of rousing some of my countrymen, more particularly at this crisis, to consider the subject of national lunatic establishments with more earnest attention. I allude to the projected asylums of this description in the contemplation of government. In England and Wales their number is now rapidly increasing. But, alas! delay and indifference mark the steps

of her rulers towards the accomplishment of any plans destined for the melioration of Ireland! Even policy itself is often at a stand, lest the anticipated improvement should make Irishmen feel *too much self-complacency* in the prosperity of their country. I cannot in this place avoid manifesting a degree of national pride in seeing the Belfast Monthly Magazine maintain so steadily and nobly its character for simple truth, for firm and undaunted opinion, in defending the interests of a pure morality and in struggling for Ireland's essential welfare. It may ultimately prove nothing more than the vanity of expectation; but I would add, that I shall feel an honest heartfelt pride, if through its medium I can contribute a single useful hint, towards the relief of those, whose situation cannot possibly attract too much sympathy and attention. But, without promising much, and sufficiently conscious how unable I may be to perform, if notwithstanding, this earnest of my future inquiries should be thought worthy of insertion, I can only say that I will use my humble endeavours to render the subject at least interesting to some of the readers of the Belfast Magazine. THOMAS HANCOCK, M.D.
London, Dec. 20, 1809.

P.S. : In some future letter I propose to take a general view of the lunatic asylums in London, public and private, which I have lately visited, to give an account of their management, to compare the public and private asylums together, and to dwell as much upon as many general facts as I can obtain. I reckon it fortunate that I have visited Dr. Fox's asylum near Bristol, and the Retreat so called

* There is however, some small degree of satisfaction in knowing that many of their English brethren feel sincere sympathy for them. I may here use the words of a late writer in a medical periodical work, published this year (1809). "When Sir John Newport endeavoured about four years ago, to obtain the sanction of the British Parliament for establishing four provincial asylums for Lunatics in Ireland, the bill, which he had brought in for that purpose, was (with shame and sorrow do we tell it) rejected by the House of Commons."

at York. From the latter I have recently obtained some interesting documents, which in their proper place I shall communicate. I shall afterwards endeavour to procure what information I may be able, respecting the foreign lunatic asylums. I do not know any work that brings the interior of our modern madhouses, and the treatment of the lunatics completely before the view.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON IGNORANCE.

"But knowledge to their eyes her ample page,

Rich with the spoils of time did ne'er unroll;

Chill penury repress'd their noble rage,
And froze the genial current of the soul.

"Full many a gem of purest ray serene,

The dark unfathomed caves of ocean bear:
Full many a flower is born to blush unseen,

And waste its sweetness on the desert air."

GRAY.

IT has been alleged by the *Darkeners*, or the advocates for keeping the poorer classes in ignorance, that by such privation they are in a more submissive state, and can be more easily governed. Probably the reverse of this statement is the truth. Ignorance produces suspicion, and an ignorant person from not knowing his rights and his duties is always dangerous. From not possessing the opportunities of accurate examination, he often expects too much, and is inclined to grasp at more than is his due share. He is suspicious and jealous. A person conversant with the uninformed classes must often have noticed the exaggerations caused by their fears, their frequent apprehensions of mischief being intended, when none is really designed, and especially their distortions of the news of the day, by which dangers are always magnified. A story receives additions in its carriage, and he who only receives his information or forms his ideas at second hand, as is the case with the illiterate, must necessarily be imperfect in forming his conclusions and deductions. The man who cannot

read, labours under so many disadvantages, that with the same capacity, he is greatly inferior to his neighbour, who has the advantage of being able to read. Reading induces, to a certain degree, habits of reflection; he does not receive altogether so implicitly, he uses his eyes as well as his ears, and has an additional means of acquiring useful knowledge; and according to Bacon, knowledge is power. It supplies faculties, which serve as the introduction of mental eyesight, and no longer,

"Is wisdom at one entrance quite shut out."

Relaxation and variety are necessary to the human mind; the rich require exercise to remove their ennui, the sedentary scholar stands equally in need of bodily motion to diversify his pursuits, and give relief to his fatigued mind; and the hard-working and toil-worn artisan and labourer, would at the same time, receive rest to his body, and information to his mind, by the relaxation of a little reading suited to his capacity. Let us figure to ourselves the English mechanic spending his earnings from his family in the evenings, at the noisy ale-house, intent all day on forming the head of a pin, or attending solely to his spindle, till he becomes almost completely identified with the machinery, and is a machine himself.—Incapable of ideas, he guzzles his beer, and makes up for his want of sense, by the loudness of his vociferations, and the brutal roughness of his manners. Let us next behold the Irish workman, maddening under the influence of his favourite whiskey, spending his leisure on Sundays, and misnamed *holy days*, at hurling and those violent exercises, more laborious than his common employment, and which by their violence tend to raise the passions, till he foolishly supposes that a broken head, and an almost fractured skull are proofs of virtuous exertion, and true courage. Such a picture is often realized in the South, while in the North, we have much drunkenness at fairs and markets, the bane of our morals and the disgrace of our country. With these let us contrast the Scotch peasant,

with a moderate portion of school learning, enjoying his evenings in quiet, and with a neverfailing source of enjoyment, in reading the useful books which the subscription library, of which he is a member, furnishes him. This is no ideal creation of imagination. The reality may be found at an extensive cotton manufactory at Rothsay in the isle of Bute, and at Glasgow in the mechanics attending a lecture given gratis once a week, at Anderson's institution, on subjects connected with their employments. I only mention these two instances as immediately occurring to my recollection. Were I more intimately acquainted with Scotland, I could doubtless support my argument by innumerable other instances.

Much praise is due to Samuel Whitbread for his attempt to introduce a more enlarged system of education into England. I trust his exertions though at present opposed by narrow minded and illiberal men, will be ultimately crowned with success, and surmount all opposition, and that Sir John Newport or some other truly patriotic and enlightened Irishman, will seek to confer a similar benefit on this country.

When the day comes that governments will attend to the public good in preference to their own selfish interests, and employ their energies, not for the destruction, but the advantage of the people, then will the subject of education obtain one of the first places in their view. Then will the funds now lavished to corrupt the people, and promote the shocking system of wars, for the purposes of ambition and tyranny, be turned into the beneficial channels of promoting education.

But even if more enlightened views prevailed, we cannot look for fruits on a sudden. Deep-rooted evils can only be eradicated through a long continued process, and book learning, although valuable as a means to an end, can operate only by preparing the ground for receiving the seeds or germ of future improvement. In the course of receiving learning, a few might become pedants, and be spoiled for the plough and the loom,

without acquiring any thing to compensate for the loss, but these would only be exceptions to the general rule, and in time a rich crop might be expected from so good a preparation, provided pains were continually taken to pull up the weeds whenever they made their appearance. Prejudices would be gradually eradicated, and habits of industry, frugality, and well disciplined virtue, would supersede jealousies, suspicion, drunkenness and the innumerable evils which follow in the train of ignorance.

Reading, writing and arithmetic, may be compared to the highroads opened through a country, which facilitate communication, and remove obstructions. They are valuable in themselves, but still more so, for the lasting good effects they produce, by preparing the way, and facilitating the progress of self-improvement, and self-instruction, those two great inlets to true wisdom.

School knowledge can by no means be relied on, as if every valuable acquisition were obtained through that medium. Cowper points out the just distinction between this kind of superficial knowledge, and true wisdom.

" Knowledge dwells
In heads replete with thoughts of other
men,
Wisdom in minds attentive to their
own;
Knowledge a rude unprofitable mass,
The mere materials with which wisdom
builds.

It is necessary to consider instruction in this comprehensive view, as well that we may form adequate ideas of its importance, as that we may not be mistaken in the expectations we form from it, as to the effects produced from a superficial system, or to what might by an enlarged liberal plan, be effected. It is of more importance to teach how to think, than what to think, and this maxim is true with regard to the poor, as well as the rich. But such doctrine will not be agreeable to those who wish to mould opinions according to their own fancies, or seek to monopolize the rights of judgment. Statesmen are mistaken if they suppose ignorance is tractable; nothing can be more obstinate. The mule is

not more stubborn than the ignorant opinionated man. Rulers egregiously mistake their interests when they seek to keep the people in ignorance. Indeed if they have designs inimical to the public welfare, they may wish to encourage ignorance, that it may prevent the people from penetrating their schemes, but the honest statesman has nothing to conceal, and holds no connexion with mystery. Concealment almost always is a cover for interested motives. I was once present at a conversation between a landlord of a little island on the coast of Ireland, and the catholic clergyman of the parish. They both reprobated the plan of giving instruction to the poor, the one thinking to continue more firmly his own authority and the authority of the state over them, and the latter his religious influence. They sought different ends, by the same means. But the landlord at least was mistaken, for a short time afterwards, on the breaking out of the disturbances in 1798, he for a time was forced to fly from his island or petty kingdom, and found that ignorance had no tendency to promote obedience. If we may venture to advert to the unhappy transactions of those days, and walk over the embers, not yet altogether extinguished, we may ask, did not ignorance add much to the ferocities with which both parties conducted themselves;—for in an impartial review of those distressing times, both sides must be blamed. Ignorance nourished the prejudices which aggravated the horrors of that day, and steeled the breasts of the contending parties; and for the removal of those prejudices we can only look to the gradual, though slow, but sure progress of education through successive years. Enlarged sentiments of mutual forbearance will not be the work of a day, there must be time for healing the breaches.

Erasmus wrote ironically in praise of folly; many gravely, with great absurdity, plead for keeping the people ignorant, that they may be submissive. The true friend of man pleads for the benefits of education to ameliorate and soften the mind of man, and to advance the improvement and happiness of the human race. When

a people are oppressed by ignorance and misrule, they acquire the habits of concealing their sentiments, and veiling their thoughts under the mask of obsequiousness. Thus is superinduced on the Irish peasant in the South, and West, and middle of Ireland, the character of cringing by day, when they meet those whom they consider as their superiors, and of outrage by night.

Sturdy independence is better than hypocritical servility. Teach men both their duties and their rights, that the one may attemper the other, and if even too much roughness should at times appear, it is preferable to servility, which seeks compensation for its apparent suppleness, by a contrary conduct when it can be shown with impunity. If the inhabitants of the south of Ireland, who consider themselves of the higher ranks, would abate of their supercilious treatment towards those they call inferiors, and if undue restrictions were removed, and education suffered to do its proper office, we should no longer hear of midnight plots; white boys, right boys, caravats, and shanavasts, would lay aside their hostilities, and a disciplined band of Lancaster's schoolmasters, would be more effectual to allay animosities, than ten thousand men arrayed in all the weapons of war.

K.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

AN EPISTLE TO DOCTOR FELL.

I CANNOT help taking notice that my aunt has been writing a panegyric upon a female friend, and entirely overlooks me; this I think not quite civil, and I propose therefore undertaking a slight sketch of myself, in order to spare her or others the trouble. But that I may not herein incur the censure of vanity, give me leave to observe, that if I am my own Biographer, it is no more than several heroes, statesmen, and hardis, have been before me, and as they wisely thought, so think I, that it is the same thing, nay much more honest, than to employ a hireling, or a parasite, to do it for us: in this case I refer myself to friend Kendal, a good judge in these matters, whether

it would not have been of great emolument to the present times, had many illustrious personages, who adorn both ancient and modern history, been constrained a few days before the setting of their sun, to have drawn their own portraits, proclaimed all their transactions, and their motives; what unspeakable benefits would thence have accrued to church and state.

I am delighted with the thoughts of making such a regulation among our great folks and the would-be's of the present, and succeeding age, and as the scheme is entirely my own, I intend upon proper encouragement, to publish a treatise on this head, and also forthwith, for though I am so clear in the matter, I am not above a little advice, to countermand Wilkes's writing any eulogium on Churchill, candidly leaving him to stand or fall by his own works; and that instead of drawing the patriot, he puts the pen into the hand of the glorious Pitt* himself, immediately on the first hearing the gout attacks his vital parts. I also propose, if agreeable to my candid critics, applying to my brother Martinus Scriblerus, for an edict to confine Voltaire, and deprive him of the use of pen, ink, and paper on the first notice of his intention to write the history of the King of Prussia.

Closing with so great a name, it may seem ridiculous to mention myself; but I have the vanity to imagine I am of as much consequence to some as the King of Prussia, and much more to myself. Pope and Swift were of this opinion when they suffered the minutæ of their lives to descend to posterity, and justified the importance of a man to himself, by giving so distinguished a character in their works as the renowned memoirs of P. P. clerk of this parish; in emulation of this character, therefore I introduce the memoirs of M. M. spinster of this parish.

It seemeth not material unto me, to enter on a detail of my nativity, parentage, shrewd endowments, and so forth; forasmuch as the philosophical birth, and scholastic education of my elder brother Martinus Scriblerus, rendereth a repetition of this kind

unnecessary, it is sufficient to observe that I have sojourned at Settle nearly two months, that I am a damsel of a middle stature, and ruddy complexion, insomuch that it hath been said, the milkmaid looketh not more blue in a frosty morning than I do, neither hath she a pleasanter countenance when Colin meets her in the eventide, than I have when all things go well with me.

Howbeit my employment is working in fine twisted woollen of divers colours, and it is work of curious devices and exquisite cunning in the art of the needle, insomuch, that like Penelope of old, I have not proposed listening to any suitors till the same be finally accomplished.

Yet peradventure should a young man, well favoured, and of a goodly aspect, draw near, I have not formed a positive resolution on Penelope's plan, for although it becometh us virgins, to deport ourselves soberly, and to seem as if we were contented in this our state of celibacy, yet it is not unlawful to suffer our eye in a stated degree to glance over a concinnate form, and our hearts a little to trepitate after supposed merit, without being deemed daughters of airy deportment.

Moreover from the earliest account of time it hath been judged not good for man to dwell alone, and therefore for their own sakes, it becometh a necessary care and duty incumbent upon us damsels, to provide for them and assign them proper partners, ever remembering in the course of my benevolent surveys, to bestow the treasure of my inestimable self, on some lucky, happy individual, as a very proper and suitable helpmate.

This being only a digression, I proceed with my history.

It hath been concluded by the learned that I am fallen away of late, that once in particular, I yielded to no intreaties in eating my dinner, sat sullen and silent, so that it was suspected on all hands, I was out of my right way of thinking, probably through the communication between the organs of sense and the *sensorium commune* being obstructed, and it is judged that something hangs heavier on me than my clothes; for I have been frequently observed to look stea-

* The late Lord Chatham.

dily on the fire; have not attended to conversation, but have said no, in the wrong place, sure it is not ominous! if I thought it was, so great is mine (like my brother Martinus') aversion to errors of style, that I possibly might, to avoid a second mistake, be rash enough to say yes, to the first man that asked me; but tell not this menace to friend Kendal, lest he frighten some timorous adventurer, for it seems he scandalizes me with the name of a wit, and says to my face things to this effect, that were he single he would not have me: that I should make a sad wife, disputing against self evident propositions, while the Jack stands, and wragling upon every new hypothesis, with holes in stockings, and that like Jenny Bickstaff of old, all snuff, with a man's dirty night cap on, I should sit rocking the cradle with one hand, and reading Epictetus in the other; not once considering how necessary it is for each sex and station, to qualify and ornament the mind with philosophical lessons, from this, or such like excellent moralist, thereby dispelling the dark clouds and thick mists of passion, ignorance, and superstition. For what pray is the very exalted character of a pudding-making mortal, which men of these superficial times, so very much revere, without moral foundation in the theory?

Now I will endeavour to prove beyond a possibility of dispute, that philosophy is not incompatible with cookery; and a woman mistress of the whole arcana of the culinary science, may notwithstanding be a very dangerous, as well as undesirable companion: as thus proving my argument.

A pudding may be well compounded, have a proper proportion of every necessary and relishing ingredient, may to all appearance be well tied up and safely committed to the pot; but if, as accidents may happen to the best pudding in the world, it should burst the bag, what but a mind aided by the light of philosophy, supported by the cardials of ethics, and soothed by the anodyne of metaphysics, could bear such an event? Now I on this trying occasion, endowed with physical rellec-

tion, and moral reasoning, should probably then and there, calmly descant on the rectitude and fitness of things, and the invariable laws of nature, faithfully exerting their influence according to the will and purpose of their Author. Thus going on to wondering Betty, and the astonished scullion, you have (says I sweetly smiling) accumulated the pabulum, too hastily upon the fire, and by that means have raised such a brisk vibration and collision among the ignited particles thereof, which being communicated by the aqueous medium, for though it is but susceptible of, and can only convey a certain degree of heat, yet will it make a terrible jumble in the pot, to the component heterogeneous particles of the pudding, so as to extend the bulk, and thereby rarify and disengage the latent air, whose elasticity overcoming the tenacity of the bag, and the tying thereof being too tight to give way, a rupture in the weakest part of the cloth constituting said bag, must happen of course, and the contents *qua data portu secant*, or will rush out where they can get vent. I should take care to advise my almost petrified disciples, that some philosophers have entertained another hypothesis concerning fire, as that fire is, *materia sui generis*, or matter of its own kind, in opposition to others, who supposed it only a mode of matter, or in other words, matter ignited; further informing them that whatever hypothesis we adopt, though for my part, I incline to the latter, all culinary processes are solved with equal ease, *mutatis mutandis*, and this particular phenomenon in question, by whethersoever hypothesis we solve it, chiefly depends on the state of the air, and that ether, which is by many supposed to be the vehicle of fire, both electric and culinary.

By this time my two auditors would have recovered a little from their surprize, at so extraordinary a catastrophe, and we all remain pleased and easy, as being convinced it was only a regular consequence of natural causes.

And now observe how your other kind of cook behaves on the like distressing occasion; she who is term-

ed an excellent housewife, and has been taught to think it the highest absurdity to venture out of the domestic province, behold her in a clean apron, reaching almost round her; trotting about the kitchen, looking after all ends, jack going, eggs beating, frizzling and frying, bustle, bustle, her face scorched and frowning, fretting and fuming, that somebody has left the print of their heel on her clean scoured parlour. Dinner ready to take up, she explores the pot, and behold, the pudding bag is burst! down drops the ladle, up go her hands; she thought some misfortune would befall them to day, for two great crows flapped at the window! she is sure there is a hobgoblin in the pot, or else the bag had a hole in it; raves at Betty, boxes the scullion, kicks the dog from the fire; he throws down the dripping pan, scalds himself, runs away howling, oversets some of the children; they all set a squalling, the frightened husband leaves the house and begs a quiet dinner at his neighbour's.

Tell my friend Kendal I doubt not of his being a proselyte to my reasoning, and therefore hope he'll make it his business by way of atonement, to recommend me, and my pacific sisterhood to the deserving of his sex, and then I'll freely, freely pardon him for past declamation.

Yet this also has been a digression from my history, but as time and paper will not admit of the sequel of my surprizing memoirs, I shall conclude for the present, with love and good will to your household and acquaintance, dear Doctor and Sally, your
M.M.*
Scue, 1mo. 1765.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

SAINCLAIR CONTINUED.

CLEMENTINA espoused Versilac; she was intoxicated with glory on the day of her nuptials; in the epithalamiums and the versessing at table all possible allusions were lavished; if they were not of the

most novel kind, they were at least the most flattering, that mythology could furnish. Clementina was compared to Sappho—to the Muses, all whose talents were combined in her: her happy spouse was designated by the name of Pindar, and even that of Apollo. They failed not to name her mother Minerva. As fable furnished no antiquaries, commentators, or glossaries, the eulogy of the Baron presented more difficulty; but as he was old, almost blind, and was deeply learned in Greek, they made a Homer of him. Ovid D'Elback did not share much of their attention; however they told him, that if he had not surpassed Tournesort and Linnæus, he would have had all the talent of the poet whose name he bore.

These ingenuis verses excited the most lively emotions in Clementina, what titles of immortality! All these praises would be printed in the *Almanack of the Muses*, as well as in the *Mercur*; Paris was on the point of becoming acquainted with all the wonderful talents of this illustrious and learned family. Amid such a triumph, how could she repent having sacrificed the inclination of her heart to glory??

Sainclair, more indignant, than afflicted, departed for Paris with Duval. The two friends, during their journey, entertained each other with their plans for the future. Sainclair said, that he was determined to marry soon, "but certainly," added he, "I will never marry a woman of celebrity. I wish for a person who shall be young, mild, amiable, modest, who has no brilliant talent, and consequently no pretensions to glory; that will not be difficult to find." You must not believe it to be so common as you think. We have reached such a point of *perfectibility*, that at Paris every one has his own species of reputation, more or less extensive: every female is spoken of in some peculiar terms of praise in her own circle, or quarter, or in the whole city—"I will never marry any one, but one, that nobody speaks of"—What a gothic idea! it is totally out of fashion. "My wish is to live in obscurity in my family and with a select circle of friends, and very much in the

* The writer of this letter, was Miss M. Moira, afterwards, the Mrs. Knowles, mentioned in the life of Dr. Johnson.

country. I wish to enjoy myself in my domestic affairs. What should I do with a woman of celebrity? When I should happen to be unwell, and that she ought to take care of me, I should expect to find her employed in preparing an article for some Journal, for it is the plan now to collect all the striking traits of living characters."

Yes, and traits, which naturally should be so completely unknown, that there is just ground for suspecting that the heroes and heroines themselves have had the goodness to furnish their historians with the secret materials. "What should I do then with such a woman? I should shudder, when I saw her writing, I could not but always suspect, there was some romance in agitation. My wish is, that her talents should only be applied to heighten the pleasure of our domestic arrangements, and that her aims be given in secret: I would tell her, that publicity in these things is becoming in people of high rank only, who are set forth for the purpose of giving great examples. However, my friends, celebrity has its advantages: folks may be married now by proxy, like princes: the reputation of females makes all their merits known, and when they are pretty you will see their portraits in the drawing-room, and you can also examine their whole figure very lightly robed. In fine, if a man has the misfortune to lose one of these celebrated wives, he can enjoy the pleasure of seeing her spring up again and shine on the theatres with Mmes Fanchon, Sophia, Arnould, Julia, &c. He may have the consolation of reading an eulogy on her in the journals and historical dictionaries. All this has no seduction for me, I wish to discover and choose her, who shall receive my plighted faith: I do not wish to have her pointed out by fame."—In this search of yours for a wife at once amiable and little known, you will only find some little monster of ugliness and folly. Sainclair looked on this observation as a jest, the sequel proved, that it was not altogether devoid of truth.

Duval remained in Paris with his relations; but as the post he had just

obtained, obliged him to look out for more spacious apartments, it was fixed on, that he should in conjunction with Sainclair take a house in the *Chausée d'Antin*. Sainclair took lodgings at an hotel, until matters should be arranged. He got thither in the evening; and was fatigued, as he had travelled the two preceding nights, and he made haste to bed.

He was just falling into a sleep, when he heard through the wall of the recess, in which his bed stood, some shrill cries, and all the accents of grief and the most violent wrath. He listens, and from some imperfect words, which he collects, he infers that his neighbour is a sick person in the delirium of an inflammatory fever. Sainclair expected, that so terrible a fit would soon exhaust the strength of the patient, and that lassitude would succeed this violent frenzy; but his expectations were cruelly deceived. Shouts, groans, and all the ejaculations of fury and rage continued without interruption till five in the morning; the noise then suddenly ceased.

Sainclair supposed, that the unfortunate patient had sunk under the violent effects of his disease, and had just breathed his last sigh; he sincerely wished him eternal repose, and was in hopes now of enjoying a temporary one himself. At that very instant the hotel resounded with the noisy sound of a clarionet, and this break-of-day player unfortunately lodged in the chamber next to Sainclair's, who, compelled to give up all hope of sleep, got up, strongly resolved to change his lodging. He discovered, that the man, he supposed ill of an inflammatory fever, was a young actor, in sound health, who, previously to making his debut next day, in the tragedy of *Andromache*, had been repeating the madness of *Orestes* during the greatest part of the night. Sainclair cursing the fine arts more than ever, determined on quitting the noisy quarter of the *Palais Royal* that same day. He recollected that a gentleman of the long robe, a relation of his, had made him an offer of his house, which he had declined, as the gentleman was tiresome by his gravity and taciturnity; and now considering, that,

after all, ennui is generally attended by a comfortable sleep, he thought, that for this time a lodging at the Marsh, near the Arsenal, would suit him better than any other. At all events, said he, I shall enjoy tranquillity there; my host, occupied by serious pursuits, and shut up in his study, will not trouble my repose. Full of this pleasing thought, Sainclair repaired after dinner, to New St. Paul Street, to the house of the President——, who appeared charmed at receiving him.

At half past eight a little fricasee was served. You see, said the President, I live, as our forefathers did; for these three hundred years past my family has supped precisely at this hour. "And I hope too, your wise ancestors always retired to rest, when they went from table?" Precisely; and it is my custom too.—"Ah, how virtuous that is!"—Yes, yes, virtuous; that is the proper term. With this habit the morals will be always pure. A man will neither be a gambler, nor a dissipated person, he will not throw away his time on public shows, he will have long mornings, and find time enough for every purpose. Sainclair admired these maxims very much, particularly when he was going to bed at nine o'clock; he lay down, having given orders that no one should enter his room till noon the next day. He was buried in a most profound sleep, when at day-break he was roused by the frightful noise of a most terrible explosion. Sainclair had not the smallest doubt, but that the powder magazine in the arsenal had blown up: seized with terror, he threw himself out of bed, deploring the misfortunes, that this accident would inevitably occasion in that district.

He hurried from his room, after hastily traversing the corridor, he perceived from the top of the stairs, the President in a night gown was coming to him, and at the same time saying, "go to your room again, go, the explosion has taken place: every thing is over for this day—How do you mean for this day?" "Yes, my fool of a servant has been the cause of it. But do not be distressed about it, we shall begin again for you tomorrow." A pleasant hope

indeed that! but prithee, what are you speaking of? "Of the most beautiful, the most curious chymical experiment; was not the detonation a terrible one?" Ah, you are a chymist then? "It is my sole passion, I reckoned on giving the entertainment of this superb experiment. I was pleasing myself with the plan of giving a little surprise."—You have caused me a very great one, I assure you, Sir. "Well I repeat it, you shall lose nothing by that. I promise it to you by the same hour tomorrow morning. Have patience." That is not easy. But tell me, Mr. President, do you think your ancestors went to bed at eight in the evening in order to make experiments in chymistry by day-break? "Oh, not at all; they went soberly about their business in the Palais at five in the morning: and take notice, that chemistry was then in its infancy, and that"——Sainclair did not hear the conclusion of this reasoning; he was so angry, that he turned his back rudely on the President, and quickly regained his chamber, exclaiming, surely the arts and sciences will be eternally conspiring against me.

Sainclair, in order to escape this experiment in chemistry, planned a secret departure that day, but so much fatigue and so many cross incidents occasioned so violent an access of fever, that he was obliged to go to bed. He sent for a physician, who was then very much in fashion, whom he had heard of even in Thoulouse. The Doctor arrives, enters with a cool and careless air, comes forward, seats himself by the bed side, and says; you are in a very bad quarter for a sick person; one ought to have relays of horses to come so far: let us feel your pulse. At these words, Sainclair, who was suffering considerably, gave his arm, and stated his situation. The doctor, instead of answering him, inquired if the house did not belong to President——. "Yes" answered Sainclair. Ah, I know him, replied the Doctor, he is a complete original, and makes a pretty use of his time and fortune; he spends more time in his laboratory, than in his study: a singular taste for a magistrate. The Doctor uttered the last words with much ab-

sence of mind, for his eye was directed to the chimney piece: there he observed two wretched old Japanese vases and a large blue China cat, which attracted his attention; for he was a *connoisseur*, and one of the most celebrated virtuosoës in Paris; he possessed whatever could be esteemed most rare in this way. How? said he, there is some *craquelée* porcelain, now so difficult to be found.

While speaking, he gets up, approaches the chimney, turns the vases and the cat again and again, is in extacies at their beauty; I'll engage said he, the President sets no value on them; is he at home? "I believe he is." I shall go to him, and shall return to you tomorrow. The Doctor went out precipitately, as he said this, without looking at Sainclair, without ordering any thing for him, so entirely was he occupied with the blue cat. There is a pretty physician," exclaimed Sainclair, "it becomes him well indeed to censure a chymist-magistrate!"

Poor Sainclair sent for the modest physician of the Marsh, who took care of him, dosed him according to rule, and at least gave him the satisfaction of knowing the nature of his disease, which was a bilious fever. In fine the physician without fame, who employed himself with his own business only, treated him skilfully.

A few days after Sainclair was in a situation to make a fortunate retreat from the house of the President, who was preparing against his recovery, explosions, detonations, an actual chymic *fête*, which was to make a noise through that whole quarter.

It was just at this period, that Sainclair fell into the possession of a property, as considerable, as it was unexpected; a relation, whom he had scarcely known, appointing him sole legatee, left him fifty thousand livres a year. Sainclair with many personal attractions, an unstained character, birth, and good fortune, soon fixed the attention of such young ladies as wish to be married, and he particularly attracted the notice of mothers. Sought and caressed, he launched into the world, where in the midst of so many new objects, one single object attracted

his regards, and touched his heart. As soon as he was alone with Duval, he asked him if he was acquainted with Albina. Albina! Is not she Count de Montclair's daughter. "The very same." She goes very little into public; but I have met her; she is pretty. "Has she any celebrity?" Oh, not at all; she is quite concentrated in her family, she neither sings, nor plays on the piano, nor the harp, nor the lyre: she is not ranked among the great dancers—"Yes, I have seen her at a ball, where they only remarked her unaffected grace, the nobleness and propriety of her demeanor." All that will not give a brilliant reputation; for it is enough to be singular in this way; one must be able to perform learned steps, know how to bend forward, maintaining a balance on the right toe, while the left leg must be raised behind, as high, as study, agility, and talent permit. In this attitude, which seems to be that of Atalanta about to pick up the golden apple, the leg is completely shewn, and unfortunately it is not always the leg of the *Venus de Medicis*; but this is admired by connoisseurs, who admire nothing in dancing, but what appears to be the fruit of obstinate labour.—"This kind of labour is estimable indeed!—but let us speak of Albina, my friend: it is she, I love; she is the person, who suits me."—Well, we must apply to her father; I shall go and speak with him tomorrow morning.

This step of Duval's was unsuccessful; the hand of Albina was promised, and her father had engaged that she should accept her destined husband in some months. Sainclair was deeply afflicted at this. Duval, with a view to console him, offered him three very advantageous matches in the course of a fortnight. Sainclair refused the first, because he had seen the young lady dance the *pas rasse* at a ball with great applause. The second was the most celebrated piano-player in the Marsh, and notwithstanding the modesty of that quarter, she was as vain of her talents, as if she had had the same reputation in the Faubourg St. Germain, or at the *Chausée d'Antin*. The third, rich, amiable, and handsome, might have

suit Sainclair, but he knew, that she sang frequently at concerts: he had himself heard her in one of these numerous assemblies, and he thought, he had discovered that in spite of her youth, she was asthmatic. He was told that those frequent aspirations, this manner of breathing was the result of art, and adopted to display feeling. Sainclair thought, that expression should be in the accent, the pronunciation, and the sound of the voice: he therefore found much fault with her manner of singing. Besides, in these moments of feeling the singer disfigured her countenance by the most extraordinary gestures: she stretched out her neck, lifted up her arms, and turned her elbows out; Sainclair was so much disgusted with her that he could not bear to hear her spoken of any more.

To be Continued.

Note...The words *Flour Games* in the translation of Sainclair, as inserted in your last month's Magazine, might be much more properly rendered *Flower Games*. The passage contains an allusion, which will probably be obscure to the generality of mere English readers, and which in the explanation may be found to present some information.

In a very early age the South of France gave Laws to Europe in poetry and refinement of manners. The Troubadours of Provence gave the laws of composition to the rest of Europe, and men of literature were esteemed in proportion to their acquaintance with the Provencal language and the writings of the Troubadours. So early as about the year 1100, we find a Troubadour spoken of in the person of a Count of Poitou. A Troubadour by profession was a kind of itinerant poet, who endeavoured to obtain the ear of the great and the favour of the ladies by his poetry, his manliness and refinement in his behaviour. This profession became so reputable, that even *Kings* aimed at being considered as members of it. One of our Kings, Richard Cœur de Leon stands high on the list. Mrs. Dobson, the celebrated translator of Petrarch, has given an abridged translation of a work by Mr. St. Palaye begun about 1740, and published after his death. In the abridgement is given a number of interesting anecdotes of the various Troubadours, whose lives she sketches. Thoulouse, the chief city of Languedoc,

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

WE present to our Readers, a letter from Richard Lovel Edgeworth, one of the Commissioners of the Board of Education in Ireland, to his fellow members, on the subject of charter schools. We wish to contribute our parts to bringing the the subject of education more fully before the public, as conceiving that the more the subject is discussed, and in the greater variety of lights it is made to appear, its great importance

had been long remarkable for its encouragement of the literature and wit of the times, and long before the 14th century meetings were held there by literary men. At length about the year 1323, a society was projected, which should meet annually under the title of the *merry Society of the Seven Troubadours of Thoulouse*. The object of this Society was to propose prizes for the encouragement of poetry; and they published their intention of awarding on every 1st. of May succeeding a violet of gold to the best performance which should be presented; From the prize proposed, the title *Joux Floraux* or Flower games, arose. This institution continued, and prospered; a few years after its commencement the founders drew up a digest of laws for it in the Languedocian, or more probably the Provencal tongue, which are said to be still preserved in the records of Thoulouse. At the same time the magistrates and towns people added an eglantine and marygold of silver to the original prize. The society existed with increasing reputation, and members to the year 1720, when the number of members amounted to 40, and four prizes were annually distributed. The early commencement and long continuance of this Institution are very remarkable; but it is still more remarkable, that no poet of eminence has proceeded from it. Many a *Versiluc* no doubt it has produced; but not one, whose name has reached beyond his own age, or his own country. The fact is valuable, as it would seem to prove, or at least to give good grounds for supposing, that patronage and encouragement will not uniformly produce the fruits of genius, and when we see on the other hand the most sublime works arise from the midst of difficulties with giant-strength, we may be allowed to infer, that difficulties arouse and stimulate the powers of man.

will become more fully manifest, and from a great number of plans some useful gleanings may be selected. The Correspondent who furnished us with the remarks on the reports of the board of education, has contributed some notes on this letter, which we subjoin.

To the Committee of the Board of Education appointed to Report upon the Charter Schools.

I congratulate the board upon the flourishing state of the charter schools of Ireland. Beside the satisfaction which we receive from the prospect of having a number of useful subjects added to the community, we must be gratified by having it in our power to evince to the government of the United Kingdom, that the education of children in these schools is efficacious, practical, free from bigotry, and in every respect such as to put it beyond the reach of private defamation and public censure.*—When our report passes through the hands of government to the public

* However consolatory it may be to find the improvement which has taken place, in the management of charter schools, one radical objection remains, that they are on the exclusive plan of training up Protestants of the establishment. Such a plan in the state of Ireland, is worse than inefficacious. It is positively injurious. A system of education better adapted to the circumstances of this country, is developed in the *Tales of Fashionable Life*.—It may be allowed, to adduce the authority of the daughter against the father. She adduces the plan of the benevolent M^rLeod, in the following account of his school.

“Religion is the great difficulty in Ireland. We make no difference between Protestants and Catholics; we always have admitted both into our school. The Priest comes on Saturday morning, and the parish Minister on Saturday evening, to hear the children belonging to each church their catechisms, and to instruct them in the tenets of their faith. And as we keep to our word, and never attempt making proselytes, nor directly, nor indirectly, interfere with their religious opinions, the Priests are glad to let us instruct the Catholic children in all other points, which they plainly see must advance their temporal interests.”

at large, it will be compared with Mr. Howard's just representation of these schools at a former period;—this comparison will give an irrefragable proof of the gradual and increasing attention which is now paid to the lowest classes of people in Ireland. This improvement is owing to the sagacity and perseverance of the committee of fifteen, who have wisely entrusted part of the superintendence of the charter schools to respectable gentlemen resident in the neighbourhood. By these and by other means pointed out in our report, nearly all the charter schools in Ireland have been brought to a high state of regularity; the few instances to the contrary which have been reported to the board, will of course produce reformation; and their being reported to us is an internal and indubitable evidence, that the reports of Dr. Beaufort and Mr. Corneille, are not merely an echo of the representations of the committee of fifteen or of local committees.

I shall now proceed to suggest to the committee a few hints for farther improvement of the Protestant charter schools; and first, as to the buildings.

*Buildings....*In most places infirmaries are wanting; in many, dining rooms and work-shops. To supply these defects, it is necessary that persons conversant with buildings should be consulted; and it appears to me, that a worthy and ingenious member of our board, Mr. Whitelaw, might be enabled to furnish proper plans and estimates for these purposes, if he were supplied from the country with rough drawings of the present buildings, and of the ground on which they stand. Wherever any difficulty occurs, it will be necessary to send an architect, to examine the buildings on the spot. It would be superfluous to add, that wherever I can be of use, my services are at the disposal of the committee.

The gentlemen of the local committees will in all cases superintend, will provide proper overseers, and will inform the committee of fifteen of the local prices of materials and of work.

*Building additions....*In all additions to buildings, after a plan has

been approved of, it is better to employ masons by the day than by the piece; because the junction of the new and old work requires particular care, and this care cannot be expected from workmen engaged by task, and because defects in this part of the business are easily concealed, and cannot be easily rectified.

With respect to infirmaries, it may be observed, that the mode of ventilation should be attended to with care, avoiding the extremes of closeness and heat, on the one hand, and of cold and thorough drafts of wind, on the other.

Proper supplies of water should also be provided, not by ordinary wooden pumps, but by strong iron pumps, that should not require frequent repairs.

Diet†....The present dietary has

† *Dietary for the charter schools.*

RULE 1.

Sunday—Breakfast; one-third of a pound of thorough wheaten bread, from which nothing but the coarse bran has been taken, or six ounces of oatmeal made into stirabout, and one pint of new milk.

Dinner; half a pound of meat (viz. good beef or mutton) weighed raw, exclusive of bone, and two pounds of potatoes.

Supper; four ounces of thorough wheaten bread, from which nothing but the coarse bran has been taken, and one pint of new milk.

Monday—Breakfast; six ounces of oatmeal made into stirabout, and one pint of buttermilk.

Dinner; one pint of broth made of the water in which the beef was boiled the preceding day, with the addition of all the bones, which are to be kept boiling from the hour of dinner on Sunday till the hour of dinner on Monday, with an ounce of meal for each mess, with leeks and turnips, carrots, and cabbages, and one-third of a pound of bread.

Supper; one pound and a half of potatoes, and one pint of buttermilk.

Tuesday—Breakfast; same as Monday.

Dinner; one-third of a pound of thorough wheaten bread, or six ounces of oatmeal made into stirabout, and one pint of new milk.

Supper; same as Monday.

Wednesday—Breakfast; same as Monday.

been proved to be excellent, by the best of all possible tests, the health and strength of the children. It has

Dinner; same as Tuesday.

Supper; same as Sunday.

Thursday—Breakfast same as Monday.

Dinner; same as Sunday.

Supper; same as Monday.

Friday—Breakfast; same as Monday.

Dinner; same as Monday.

Supper; same as Monday.

Saturday—Breakfast; same as Monday.

Dinner; same as Tuesday.

Supper; same as Monday.

Observation.—No buttermilk shall be given to the children that has been more than forty-eight hours churned. Four ounces of rice, weighed when raw, may be substituted instead of six ounces of oatmeal. No separation to be made of foremilk and strippings, but the master is permitted to mix one pint of water with every quart of new milk, but must be prepared to verify by affidavit to be sent up with each quarterly account, if required, that he has not, during any part of said quarter, infused a greater proportion of water, nor separated the foremilk from the strippings. No potatoes, except apple potatoes, are to be given to the children, from 25th March till 24th of June. No potatoes, are to be used from 24th June till 29th September, but one-third of a pound of wheaten bread, as before-mentioned, is during all that time, to be substituted in lieu of potatoes at each meal at which potatoes are to be used during other parts of the year. If the local committee of any school or nursery shall, during any time between 1st of November and 1st of May, judge it expedient, on account of scarcity of milk, to permit beer to be used at dinner, the master or mistress of such school or nursery, may substitute at dinner instead of milk, a like quantity of wholesome beer, during each of these months; provided, however, that a permission in writing signed by three or more of the local committee and also by the catechist, shall, during all the time for which such permission is granted, continue fixed on the wall of the room in which the children dine. It is insisted upon by the society, that every child's mess shall be served up to table on a separate trencher, or in a separate porringer, according to the kind of food. The society allow table-cloths, also knives and forks, to be used on meat days. The masters and mistresses are strictly enjoined to have a printed copy of this dietary constantly

been said that they uniformly prefer potatoes to wheaten bread; perhaps quantity in this case compensates for quality. With respect to stirabout, there is reason to believe, that food which passes down the throat without mastication, is neither so agreeable nor so wholesome as that which undergoes sufficient mastication: it has also been said, that the stirabout has been laid aside in many places, because it promotes cutaneous diseases; for this however there does not appear to be sufficient foundation; for our report states that oatmeal bread is used in some of these schools, and at the same time it is stated, that even in these but few boys were infected with any cutaneous disease. It might however become a useful subject of experiments and inquiry, which it is in the power of the board to prosecute with very little trouble, and with great and permanent advantage to the public.

Religious Instruction.—This in almost every school fully answers and sometimes surpasses expectation; the catechists most laudably attend their duty, and their labours are successful. The tract called, “*The Protestant Catechism*” had been omitted in many places, it is now entirely discarded. After all that has been said by others, I shall in as few words as possible express my own sentiments; it is my duty to do so, or I should decline the subject altogether. The highest authority that public station and private character can create, has sanctioned the opinion, “That whatever a good parent of the higher ranks should do for the religious instruction of his own children, should be done for the poor.” This benevolent and pastoral sentiment I am reluctantly obliged to question: children of opulent parents have their minds cultivated by various knowledge; they have abundant sources

posted up in the room where the children dine.

Hours of Meals.—From the 25th of March to the 29th of September: hour of breakfast, half-past eight, of dinner one, of supper seven. From the 29th of September to the 25th of March: hour of breakfast half past nine, of dinner two, of supper seven.

N. B. On Sundays throughout the whole year, the hour of dinner shall be half past two, and of supper half past seven.

of instruction from books and conversation; they are thus taught to discriminate, and even at an early age to reason. At a charter school the children are with great propriety kept separate from society, and no books get into their hands, but such as their masters chuse to give them; they should therefore be taught dogmatically.* The doctrines of our church should most certainly be early impressed on their memories, and they should be made acquainted with the nature and tendency of those errors against which we protest; but I would by no means prepare them to be disputants, were they capable of entering the lists; I should fear that they might burst from the hive a swarm of Sectaries.

The absurdities of Popery are so glaring, “that to be hated, they need but to be seen.” But for the peace and prosperity of this country, the misguided Papist should not be rendered odious, he should rather be pointed out as an object of compassion; his ignorance should not be imputed to him as a crime; nor should it be presupposed that those whose tenets are erroneous, cannot have their lives in the right. “Thank God! that I am a Protestant,” should be a mental thanksgiving, not a public taunt.†

* Here again we have the exclusive system of manufacturing Protestants.—There is infection in sitting at the council board, with those influenced by a predominating idea. The firmness of a lay man, can scarcely resist the influence of churchmen. What is taught dogmatically, can only be received parrotically.—The understanding is uninfluenced. Instil into the minds of children, the principles of morality common to all sects, and of which all men are compelled to acknowledge the truth, and leave the peculiar distinctions of sects to be assumed afterwards according to their judgments, as they grow up. Let the foundation of morality be laid in schools; let useful instruction in necessary learning be given; let no attempt be made to interfere with religious opinions or religious prejudices. No useful plan of education can be adopted in Ireland, on any other principle.

† It is ungenerous to triumph over a fallen opponent. The Catholic in Ireland is depressed. Secure him by the claims of kindness, and until he is restored to

General Instruction....Writing, reading, and arithmetic, are the standing objects of attention. Of these, writing, except in one or two instances, is well taught, reading not quite so well, and arithmetic less generally and perhaps less successfully than might be expected; yet of all the common acquirements of which the young mind is capable, arithmetic is the most useful; its rules are logical, their foundation is laid in immutable truth, their developement excites and gratifies early curiosity, and it is impossible to have learned the higher rules of arithmetic under a good master, without having the general powers of the mind improved; and what end can be proposed more advantageous to society in the education of the poor, than to give them good sense, and reasoning minds? to make the poor good and wise, and tractable, give them sufficient powers of discernment, and they will discern their real interests amidst the sophistry of those who endeavour to mislead them.

Books....To form the judgment and influence the feelings of the children, beside the instruction of their masters, proper books must be employed. I have been told, that in some schools the Greek and Roman histories are forbidden; such abridgements of these histories as I have seen, are certainly improper; to inculcate democracy and a foolish hankering after undefined liberty, is not necessary in Ireland. But there are many other books which may be advantageously permitted; I shall presume to mention the following: "Barbauld's" beautiful "Hymns," "Moral Annals," and "Butler's Arithmetic," which is full of solid useful facts, adapted to every pursuit of their future lives: also "Butler's Geography," with any other compendium of Geography that mentions the products of different countries.

It is often said in England, that an

his political rights, and stands on an equal footing, postpone disputation. When all sects are placed on an equality, then truth will have fair play, and errors or supposed errors may be pointed out under the guidance of the spirit of meekness.

BELFAST MAG. NO. XVIII.

Irishman does not know his right hand from his left; let our poor children be taught the cardinal points of the compass, let them learn to know the pole star, and three or four of the constellations, the causes of day and night, and the annual motion of the earth; even Caliban is proud of these acquirements. The principles of draining abridged, and similar parts of agricultural knowledge, applicable to the situation of the lower classes of the people, may be advantageously taught.*

The children should see specimens of the common poisonous plants and minerals, and antidotes should be pointed out to them.

For their amusement, stories inculcating piety and morality, and industry, should be admitted. But every thing that leads to restlessness and adventure should be carefully avoided. The attention should be turned as much as possible to sober realities; for instance, the habit of estimating measurement should be early taught, it enlarges and occupies the mind, and is of daily use in every situation of life. A competent portion of what is here mentioned might be taught by masters visiting these schools from time to time, without much trouble or expense.

Employment....To find proper employment for children is a desideratum not yet attained, but it may be approached. It is always in the power of the master to encourage gardening, it is profitable to him and healthful to his pupils; nurseries of trees are still better sources of employment and of profit than common gardening. Boys take an interest in what at the same time occupies their

* The remarks inculcated by the writer on the subject of arithmetic, the compass, and draining, are truly excellent, and well deserving the attention of all engaged in education. It has long been a reproach in the system of education for all ranks, that more attention is paid to teaching words than things. The remarks on gardening are very appropriate. The Irish cottager might derive many important advantages and comforts from acquiring a taste for cultivating a little garden adjoining his cabin.

minds, and employs their limbs; this interest will grow up with them, and may, by degrees supplant that hatred for trees, which it is said subsists in Ireland.

Knitting and spinning are totally unfit and unprofitable for boys, weaving is a healthful exercise if not followed with too much assiduity; the flax mills now establishing in Ireland will soon supply materials every where. Is it to be supposed that the legislature will refuse to supply looms?

The boys should not work more than three hours a day. Looms for cotton and woollen goods should of course be employed in some places, instead of those for weaving narrow sacking and coarse cloth.

Stocking weaving instead of knitting should be introduced; netting and weaving sash-cord, curtain line, and fringe for furniture, might be tried. Basket-making is a good employment; shoe-making is already taught, and it may be more generally introduced, for shoes are every day becoming more common in Ireland. The hours for play are not sufficient; ball-playing, gough, and cricket, and all many sports, should be encouraged: "*Mens sana, in corpore sano*" is the description of a useful citizen. A book should be kept, stating privately the genius, merits, faults and progress of every boy in every school: from each a certain number should be selected every year. And different schools should be established, either upon the present, or upon a new foundation, to breed boys to different occupations; servants, shoemakers, cabinet-makers, clerks, merchants, surveyors, schoolmasters, parish clerks and choristers, and soldiers, who must soon from their acquirements become serjeants, and might then by their education be brought forward in society. It was thus that the Jesuits made their pupils superior to those in any other seminary on the Continent. "*Fus est et ab hoste docteri.*"

In all cases the work-boy and his master should have part of the profit of their industry; and surely the master should be encouraged to look forward, as he grows old, to a permanent establishment for life.

Consolidation of Schools.... Upon the whole, the greatest improvement that could be made in these schools, would be to reduce their number, four schools containing from six to seven hundred, according to local circumstances, would answer all the ends proposed by the present diffused establishments. The superintendence of these schools would be easy and effectual.

That discipline by which armies are governed, which cannot take place in the management of a few boys, might be introduced amongst numbers; the division into small bodies, with the system of gradual subordination, and promotion from merit, would induce habits of submission and emulation, which would be carried from the school into every situation where the boys might afterwards be placed.

It would be practicable to send a master in relation to these schools for a fortnight twice a year, to teach various useful parts of knowledge, some of which are before-mentioned. From the impression made by incidental instruction, the bent of each boy's disposition might be learned, and his proper destination might be ascertained. A useful and cheap apparatus might be had for this purpose, and a proper master be found, who should not aim at teaching more than what is obviously useful. Were this effected, Protestant apprentices would soon be in such high request, as to make it an object of competition amongst the parents of the poor to have their children admitted into charter schools, and then by degrees the foolish prejudice against this mode of education would be eradicated, a circumstance which might in itself be of very high advantage to Ireland.

(Signed) RICHARD L. EDGEWORTH.

November, 8, 1808.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,
H^{AVING} seen a paper signed J. R. in your Magazine for June last, and observations thereon by Mechanicus, in that for September, and lastly, *Strictures on Mechanicus*, in

the Magazine for October, by M.D. C. as a by-stander, I shall beg leave to make some observations on them all.

From the close similarity or rather identity of the stile used by M. D. C. with that of the paper to which it refers in the Magazine for June, I am strongly inclined to believe them both the production of the same pen; since the same obscurity of expression noticed by Mechanicus, evidently characterizes both; but if the former was obscure, the latter is covered with "darkness visible.*" It is also remarkable that the paper of M. D. C. is dated Dublin, October, 7. only six days after the publication of the Magazine, in which Mechanicus appeared; therefore, allowing two days for postage, only four days remain for all the experiments, made as it appears, on purpose to refute Mechanicus; these are suspicious circumstances. But being unwilling to believe that Mr. R. would have the vanity to bedaub *himself* with such awkward compliments, as the paper of M. D. C. contains, I shall for the present, consider the author as a distinct personage, and totally unconnected with Mr. R.

It is scarcely necessary to observe that the glass stem of a hydrometer one-fiftieth of an inch in diameter, and twelve inches long, would not bear to be loaded with weights. To

* To give all the examples, would be to transcribe the whole paper; let one suffice. "But I am also of a decided opinion that this does not apply, that a new discovery is made, &c." But as this may have been a mistake of the printer, in putting the word *apply* instead of *imply*, let us try another sample. "Every buoyant body, will carry or bear the weight of the water removed by the body." A loaded ship is certainly a buoyant body, will it carry the weight of the water displaced? if so it must carry a weight equal to that of the whole ship and cargo, in addition to its former load! If the author meant to say that, *the weight of every buoyant body, is at all times equal to the weight of the water displaced by that body;—but the weights and bulks of both are never equal, except at the point of total immersion*; this would have been strictly true; but it is not true that a buoyant body, will carry a weight that sinks it.

observe method, therefore, and reserving the most important points, between the Disputants to be last settled, I shall pass over the first part of M. D. C.'s paper, which is to be considered afterwards, and begin with that part where he says; *The Rhapsody* made use of by Mechanicus prevents me from following him any farther, to make room for a few observations of my own. Are they then not all his own observations; if not whose are they? was the writer conscious of assuming a feigned character, and thus inadvertently endeavours to conceal it? With respect to the word, *rhapsody*, the public, are the proper judges, to whose productions it is most applicable.

Mechanicus has said, that if the adjustment of the quantities of air and water, in the small bulb of the water barometer was made above the temperature of $42\frac{1}{2}$ degrees, the same adjustment would not answer below that degree, and M. D. C. acknowledges that he tried it only between the temperatures of 55 and 70, this looks very like giving up the point. He says that after repeated trials of sinking and swimming, he made a stem that answered his expectations, but carefully conceals the size of it. He complains that there are two troublesome guests, in the shape of difficulties, that haunt him, and that he cannot dismiss, for he says they "remain with him" still. One is, how to adapt a scale to the glass stem, so as to correspond with a mercurial barometer. This appears a little inconsistent with an assertion in a former part of the same paper, where he says "that many of the most accurate hydrometers have no figures marked on their stems," and since this is confessedly a hydrometer with the name changed, and a small air bulb added to the large bulb. How can a scale be necessary in the one case and not in the other? or if necessary for a barometer, though not for a hydrometer, how can it be difficult to adapt a scale to an instrument that "shows the minute barometrical changes, more visibly than any instrument the inventor had ever seen?" Again, How could these minute barometrical changes have

been observed, since it is confessed that no scale has yet been adapted to the glass stem? these are all questions, which M. D. C. will find it difficult to answer.

The last difficulty is to get air to preserve the same proportion, and *not diminish in bulk*. M. D. C. appears a little unreasonable to expect both these conditions, since one of them might suffice. He will find it troublesome to obtain even one of them; if so, it amounts to an admission of the objection made by Mechanicus, viz. "that air, which has been long confined under water loses its elasticity, either from part of it being decomposed, or mixing with that contained in the water." M. D. C. says "I would mention the proportions I have already found, and the kind of air I used, but I hope that Mr. R. will give some more information, being thankful for his hints already given; and I think much better of this water barometer, than as a visionary toy." What! are all the encomiums bestowed on these contrivances ended in "something better than a visionary toy?"

This conclusion is no bad specimen of the *anticlimax*. I am ready to admit more than M. D. C. for I think the machine, not a visionary but a real toy, composed of air, water, and glass, and which would make an excellent substitute for a rattle to grown up infants.

All the minor points being disposed of, come we now to the most important point for the Disputants; for although it is certainly very uninteresting to the public, to know whether a glass balloon filled with air, hermetically sealed, and placed on the top of a hydrometer stem is sensible to the changes of the atmosphere or not: because an instrument having the three properties of the hydrometer, thermometer and barometer, blended together, has already been proved by Mechanicus to be totally useless. But since the subject admits of demonstration, and since Mechanicus has been accused by M. D. C. of want of candour, it is but fair, to examine both sides of the question.

It was asserted by Mr. R. that an air balloon, placed on the top of a hydrometer stem, did sensibly rise

and fall with the changes of the atmosphere, or he used words to that effect; Mechanicus says the thing is impossible. Suspecting that the word impossible, may have been used in a manner too unqualified; in order to satisfy myself, I made the experiments hereafter to be related.

It must certainly be admitted, that in order to float on the top of a hydrometer stem, it is not necessary that the balloon should be light enough to float in air; yet I strongly suspected that without this condition, it would not admit of being made large enough to displace a volume of air sufficient to render even the greatest changes of the atmosphere sensible, and were this practicable it would then be beyond all measure too large and too heavy, to be placed on the top of a hydrometer stem.

The general principle must also be admitted, that if any two bodies of different specific gravities, are balanced against each other in any medium, the specific gravity of which shall afterwards be changed, the two bodies will then lose their equilibrium (this is what M. D. C. calls by way of its title, the old and well known fact, otherwise Mr. R's datum) from this principle it results that, strictly and mathematically speaking, a ship with sails and rigging, will float higher on the water in a dense, than in a rare atmosphere. A pound of feathers balanced against a pound of gold, will vary in weight as the density of the atmosphere varies. But an air pump (could such be procured large enough) would be required to make those effects sensible, as well in those two cases, as that mentioned by M. D. C. yet no one ever thought of converting a ship, or a bunch of feathers into a barometer.

But to come nearer the point in dispute; is it not a little remarkable that neither Mr. R. nor his friend M. D. C. has ever told the size of the air balloons they used; the latter had indeed mentioned three ounces as the supposed weight, but this must be out of all proportion to the given size, and consequent weight (about two ounces) of the hydrometer bulb, on the stem of which it was placed, let the weight be supposed one ounce, and its size

three fourths of that of the hydrometer bulb; and even these proportions will be found much too large to admit of its upright position. The dimensions of the air balloon will then be three cubic inches. The weight of a cubic foot, or 1728 cubic inches, is 1.2os. or 1576 grains Troy weight, 1728 divided by 576, gives a quotient of three cubic inches to each grain, the balloon will therefore displace three cubic inches of air, the weight of which is one grain. Suppose now that such a change of the atmosphere took place as would cause the mercury in a common barometer to rise or fall half an inch at once (which would be a very extraordinary case) this in round numbers is the 6th part of the whole column of mercury which is equal in weight to a column of air, the same size of the bore of the barometer tube, and the height of the whole atmosphere.—The specific gravity of the balloon would in this case be changed the 60th part of one grain. Now in order to be convinced, whether the 60th part of a grain could have any *sensible* effect on a hydrometer stem circumstanced as above, I procured one of Dycas's improved hydrometers which does not exceed in weight 17 penny weights, and the size of its bulb 1.62 cubic inches, consequently easier affected than one of three times its size and weight.

I immersed the hydrometer in clean water which had stood an hour in the same room, lest its temperature should have changed while the experiment was making.—I loaded the hydrometer till one of the division lines just appeared above the surface of the water, and no more.—I then took a slip of thin writing paper about six inches long and one fifth of an inch broad, with its edges cut exactly parallel, and balanced it very exactly in a nice pair of scales, to one grain. I then divided it into four parts by folding, and one of those quarters was then divided exactly by a pair of compasses into 15 parts and cut asunder; each part was therefore the 60th part of one grain, the hydrometer being in the situation above described, I took up these small bits of paper, and placed them very cautiously one by one on the

top of the stem, with a pair of tweezers; I placed on six of them in this manner, without perceiving the smallest alteration in the height of the stem, although the six pieces correspond to a change of three inches of mercury in a common barometer, and equal to its greatest range in this country. I afterwards placed on in the same manner all the 15 pieces (one quarter of a grain) and it was not till then that the stem was observed to sink the breadth of the division line, about the 60th part of an inch, although these 15 parts are equal to a change of $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches of mercury.

Let this air balloon barometer, which is capable of showing the changes on only three cubic inches of air, be compared with a common barometer, which contains 14 ounces 8 pennyweights of mercury, which at the rate of 1.2os. to a cubic foot, balances 12 cubic feet or 20736 cubic inches of atmospheric air; and consequently shows the changes on that quantity. 20736 divided by three gives a quotient of 6912, the advantage therefore which a common barometer possesses over the bauble in question, is no less than 6912 to one; even supposing its changes could possibly be rendered sensible.

I am happy in applauding the zeal, and even approving of the partiality avowed by the editor, in favour of any original communications which have an apparent tendency to improve philosophy or the arts; but as silly conceits, or exploded contrivances, may be offered to public notice under the name of new or useful discoveries, an editor may with the greatest propriety submit such communications to a free and candid investigation, in order thereby to discover their several merits, or demerits. X

High-street, Belfast, Dec. 5, 1809.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON THE DEPRECIATION OF PAPER CURRENCY.

The Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine give ready insertion to the following paper. The commercial Reporter adds a few notes, and

willing to let the subject in dispute go before the public for their verdict on the merits of the question already before them. He is not ambitious of having the last word; and is not desirous of prolonging the controversy.

TO THE COMMERCIAL REPORTER OF
THE BELFAST MAGAZINE.

SIR,

IN consequence of your remarks on my letter in the Magazine of last month, I feel called on in my own justification to request the insertion of the following; promising the editors, for whose indulgence I return my sincere thanks, not again to desire so unreasonable a sacrifice of their respectable and instructive pages.—I confess sir, I am not induced to alter my opinion on the present state of our currency from any thing I find in your analysis of my former letter, and while I agree with you that the apparent inconsistency in the doctrine of the reports required something explanatory, I by no means think what you have now given carries conviction along with it; the simplifying principle you have advocated, is, in my mind, neither rational nor effective; it may be solved thus; because you cannot obtain *all* that is desirable, you prefer establishing a *complete* system of evil, rather than one of *partial* good, and this reminds me of an analogous simplifying proposal of my Lord Henry Petty—Since we cannot carry on things, says he, without the *partial* inconvenience of a five per cent income tax, let us make it 10 per cent at once, and then it will be a *down-right* evil. You say, the depreciation of our paper currency is proved by an unfavourable exchange, because, had we guineas as formerly, we should, by sending them to the Continent, keep it at a medium very little above the cost of freight, insurance, &c; this is but a recapitulation of my Lord King's blundering hypothesis, in which he fixes 8 per cent as a *reasonable* equivalent for risk, profit, &c. but in the name of common sense, did it never occur to you sir, as I am sure it never did to the noble Lord, to inquire where this exportation of the precious metal is to end, how long these countries could hold

out under such a destructive draining principle, at a time, when, from our naval superiority we are become the commercial emporium of the exports, and when, from the great disproportion between our imports and our exports, the balance of trade must be considerably against these countries;* look at the East and West Indian, and London docks, see the millions of property lying there, compare the import and export sides of those warehouses, and then say do you advocate the expediency of paying for the accumulating balance by drains from the gold circulating medium of a country, the highest amount of which never exceeded 40 millions, and that at a time when the internal commercial intercourse bore no proportion with the present; in the event of this exportation, what is to be substituted in its stead? where shall we find a succedaneum? would you annihilate the noble and stupendous superstructure of public confidence and credit? or what is a merchant, be his stability ever so great, or his property ever so extensive, to do with his bill, unless this legalized accommodation of Bank paper, which was the object, *ab initio*, in the establishment of a bank, be extended to him? You tell me, "the

* That the general disappearance of guineas in our circulation from the high price of bullion and the bank restriction act, is one cause of the high exchange, appears clear to me. I shall also mention another; the operation of the orders in council on our trade. Formerly the balance of trade with the continent of Europe was materially altered by the large quantities of produce from North America sent to the continent of Europe. The amount was remitted to Great Britain to pay the debts owing for British manufactures sent to North America. The readers who may be desirous to examine this subject more fully, are referred to the examinations before the House of Commons as detailed in the critique on Brougham's speech in our 9th and 10th numbers. This apparent concession does not weaken the force of the arguments drawn from the effect of the depreciation of bank notes on the state of exchange. It only adds another cause. Both arise from the disturbed state of our financial arrangements, and the disorganizing system of commercial warfare, in which we are unwisely engaged.

deficiency in the value of gold, as money, comparatively with bullion, is countervailed at home by a discount, and on the continent by a higher value, bearing a *relative* proportion with the state of exchange;" that is, influenced by the fluctuations of the latter; I cannot see how this is to square with the preceding observation; which is the *cause*, whence this interesting and powerful *momentum* is to be traced? is it the high price of guineas, or high rate of exchange? in one we have the depreciation of our paper, and consequent increased price and scarcity of guineas *causing* the high rate of exchange, and again we find the high and unfavourable exchange regulating the demand for guineas and consequently their relative value; thus, Proteus-like, do you elude the very grasp, and thus do we find sophistry the only stay of theory when opposed to the unerring aim of practice and experience.*

In your reply to my quere respecting the use of coins, you tell me, "the great superiority of guineas over bank notes, is, that in every part of the commercial world they still retain their value," that is, that in the event of our inability to pay for our imports by a proportionate value of exports, a remittance of guineas is a convenient and advisable means of making up the deficit, as from their intrinsic value they will be received every where; now sir, I have ever considered this universal reception which they meet out of their native country as a very great disadvantage, and the principal objection against using the metals, or any thing *intrinsically valuable* as a medium to expedite and simplify the intricacies of barter, in as much as their abstraction deranges the economy of internal traffic, and compels the alternative of seeking a substitute in paper money, to avoid the ruinous evil of a suppressed circulation, for

* On which side the sophistry and obscurity lie, whether with the writer or the commercial reporter is submitted to the cool judgment of the reader. I acknowledge myself unable to comprehend the writer's meaning in this sentence.

COM. REPORTER.

it was only in aid of this internal and as it were domestic accommodation, that every nation in conformity with its own customs and modes of reckoning, has divided and subdivided the precious metals, graduating the scale with others which are more easily procured, or of less value from their greater abundance, to the end that, as a *representation* of property, they may be better adapted to the various purposes of their creation; in conformity with this also, has each government stamped its own coins with the national seal, to discourage, if not prevent, this alienation or as it may be termed expatriation, for I look upon coins as the legitimate offspring of the *trade* of their respective countries, and like many of the natives of our own island, when they pass into the service of foreigners, justly lose their original character, and suffer the indignity of being sold and naturalized.

Further in reply to the same question, your reference to our generals and soldiers in Spain, Portugal and Holland, is an appeal to the feelings, which in an investigation of mere political expediency, is inadmissible; it is throwing a false light on the subject which must conceal its true bearings, it is robbing a deformed outline in alluring drapery, and can only be productive of a popular and illusive ebullition, which cannot add strength to your reasoning, creates wrong impressions, and is unworthy that sobriety of discussion which I trust will ever characterize your political investigations; that part of your reply I therefore discard as incompatible with the close reasoning, which alone can bring the question to an issue.*

If my illustrations, or, as you please to term them, "flashes," afford no

* The commercial Reporter had no intention to lead away from the discussion into extraneous matter by mentioning the inability of paper currency to answer the purposes of our expeditious. He stated a matter of fact connected with the subject, that gold or silver would only answer such purposes. Government know so, and act accordingly, and still farther drain us of our specie, though they punish the merchant for exporting guineas to answer the purposes of his trade.

COM. REPORTER.

steady light to guide us through the gloom, you will pardon me if I view the conclusions you have drawn, as the illuminations of a self-created labyrinth in which the traveller is certain of losing his way, and which meteor-like, but increase our sensibility of this imaginary gloom; they are what Milton finely calls, the "*palpable obscure*," darkening even darkness' self.

I asked if the almost total silence upon the subject of depreciation among commercial men was proof of an increased interest on this head, and you have referred me to the recent articles in the Morning Chronicle, the Times and Cobbett's Register; but sir, we are not to receive the interested, ignorant and ephemeral effusions of newspaper advocates as a sober appeal from the thinking part of the community,* no more than the uproar of a mob, for the dignified and instructive expression of disapprobation; a short survey however of those immaculate sources of information and public sentiment, will best establish their merit.

One of the ablest writers of the Morning Chronicle says—"the penalties of the law have degraded the few guineas in circulation to the value of bank notes," admitting clearly that bank notes are yet at their primitive value, but have inhumanly dragged down the guineas to their level, like a vicious character, unable to reach the eminence of the virtuous, without a chance of equality, save in the humiliation of worth and merit; here you see we have degraded guineas to keep your degraded notes in countenance, and this sir is by a disciple of "depreciation."—Again—

* Here again the discussion is left to the reader on the former arguments, without adducing any fresh evidence. As to the arguments of the writers in the English papers it is not necessary to enter into their defence. They are not properly parties in this controversy. But it may be asked, why a writer in a magazine should assume so fancied a superiority over what he calls "the interested, ignorant and ephemeral effusions of newspaper advocates?" Such an assumption encroaches on the rights of equality in free discussions.

COM. REPORTER.

"our currency is already superfluous, and it is worse than useless to retain the guineas *here*; but, diminish the currency, by calling in the excess of bank notes, and an *importation* of gold would be immediately produced, with a consequent favourable exchange." Thus are we told, it is worse than useless to retain the guineas here, by the same writer who recommends a plan for their importation; but this fellow's merrymery was not sufficiently retentive to carry him to the close of his own period. I believe sir there is no necessity to say more than he has himself, in justification of his claims to the first class of block-head.*

Another of the chronicle authorities says, "bank notes in their fall have carried down guineas along with them, and which has been produced by the law making it felony to melt guineas, that no one would *dare* make two distinct prices, because it would demonstrate an intention of committing felony, that he would instantly lose his character, and *probably be ruined*." Now sir if you have any faith, in this gentleman's solution, I think it would be an act of humanity to give it publicity on the change of Belfast, but you who have so ably, though unsuccessfully advocated the simplifying of the currency, because, "the ablest computer" (I would not say *felon*) "can sell his guineas best," need not be told of the ignorance and stupidity of such arguments.—Here also we have law itself, the source of disorder, but a volume would not suffice to note such accumulated absurdities.—Why sir, Cobbett himself, that arch inquisitor of bank delinquency says, "he sees *nothing* alarming in the discount upon bank notes in exchange for guineas; that the philosopher (not merchant) who writes in the Morning chronicle has suggested a remedy, and what does the reader think it is, why, nothing short of compelling the bank to confine its issues to a certain reduced amount!"

* Calling names proves nothing in a fair discussion. A good cause does not lose by maintaining good manners. Sound arguments are more effectual than harsh words.

COM. REPORTER.

Thus ridiculing the cause you advocate, and breaking the very main stay of your position.*

I by no means however approve of Cobbett's reasoning (if such dashes merit such a name) which I think upon this subject is a mass of folly and indiscrimination; he says, "to a certain point the guinea will sink with the paper, but, *it will go no farther*," I think this is indeed perspecuity to a *very* point, yes, wise-acre, and this world will exist to the very moment of dissolution, but—*no longer*, again, he says, "when the *trade* of guineas is well established," (that is, when felony becomes an open profession) "they will flock back again into this kingdom," I think sir the merchants of Belfast may *now* look for the second coming."

The very title of the investigation in Cobbett's register (*Jacobin guineas*) is sufficiently indicative of a *political* and not *commercial* inducement having at present agitated the subject.

And now Sir, allow me to ask; seriously to ask; are those the writers, whose charges you think the bank directors should sit down to answer? are the lucubrations of such anonymous declaimers, to be regarded, as the sentiments of the respectable and mercantile part of the community, *non tati auxilin, nec defensoribus istis tempus eget*. I profess however a higher opinion of you, than to suppose you think with those writers, but you *should* have known the authorities before you made the reference.

To proceed with your analysis, you say the evils of the bank note system are all solvable into the ef-

fects of the restriction act which liberated the banks of England and Ireland from paying their notes in specie,—the *restriction* act, which *liberated*, have you no regard, sir, either to sense or sound, as well might you tell me, the moral and *restrictive* obligation which says "thou shalt not steal," *liberates* us from a pre-existing necessity for theft, or that the *penal* statutes of our municipal law, *exempts* the subject from an *imperative* obligation to be vicious,* but sir in the words of my lord Littleton "I desire no stronger proof that an opinion *must* be false, than to find many absurdities in it."

To conclude, I do assert that under the existing charters, it is a downright impossibility that the paper, of the national banks can be represented, but I am not to be answered by doling out a string of truisms. That, guineas would not be exported if there was not a motive—that, the exporting them proves their increased value.—That they will pass on the Continent when bank notes will not, and such like; no sir, I am only to be refuted, in your own words, by the "omnipotence of truth," "et quoddam dictamen rationis quod dirigitur humani actus." I am Sir Yours, &c.

CHARLES WILLIAMS.

Calerain, December 9, 1809.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,
THE ladies are all very much interested in a paper which appeared in the Belfast Magazine, entitled the "Court of Juno," you may therefore judge of our extreme disappointment in not seeing a continuation of it in the last number of that *valuable* publication. After thinking of innumerable plans to gain intelligence of the ambassador to the "Court of Juno," I thought it would be better to write to you for intelligence.

Imagination is always inclined to

* Cobbett has since taken other grounds on this subject. But it is not necessary, to enter into an examination of the writers in the Morning Chronicle. The Reporter did not refer to them as authorities, but merely to show in answer to an objection of C. W's, that the subject did occupy public attention. It would needlessly prolong the controversy to examine the respective merits or demerits of these writers, who have advocated the different sides of the question. COM. REPORTER.

* The Reporter sees no cause to retract what he formerly advanced on this subject, nor does he think it necessary to repeat it again by way of having the last word. COM. REPORTER.

magnify danger, and sometimes I thought the ambassador had been lost on his return from Juno; again I feared Venus and her nymphs had detained him on his return; sometimes I feared that Morpheus had laid such violent hands on him, that like the great Lord Chatham he had failed in his embassy, or had got into a trance—and sometimes—but why need I trouble you with conjectures, when I only wish to request you will be so good as to inform us what is become of him—as the answer he would receive from Juno would determine whether we were *timely* to submit to be sold like cows, or *other live stock*, or assert our independence. This latter question has been much debated among the *fair sex*, (allow me sir to give ourselves this title, though some of us are any thing but fair) as some of us think we ought to be *timid*, gentle creatures, who could not walk across the street without assistance from the *lords of the creation*, and scream most loudly if we saw a bee fly near us (now sir this doctrine might do for the young and beautiful, but what will become of us who are old, ugly, and wrinkled—) and be as unable to encounter the storms of life as the ivy could resist the elements without the assistance of the oak, or some other strong support—others think we ought to exert our energies, and think and act for ourselves, and do all in our power to make ourselves rational beings, fit to enjoy the conversation of the sensible and well informed, and act with becoming prudence our part on the great theatre of the world.

Now Mr. Editor, as our female logic is none of the best, or strongest, I submit these opinions to you, hoping you can solve our doubts and difficulties on the subject of female genius and talents. I hope you will be so kind as to inform us very speedily of the fate of the ambassador; I am willing to indulge hopes of his safety, as he had arrived at Minerva's island—Indeed if the last account had been from Venus's island, I should have been under some apprehensions for his safety, as Venus says she has no particular love for the Irish ladies, and she might have

endeavoured to give him an unfavourable impression of us—but upon second thoughts, even if Venus had detained him, Minerva, would, after taking him under her patronage, have exerted all her influence, to relieve him from Venus, as she did in days of yore, to rescue Telemachus from the fascinating charms of Calypso and her nymphs.

Now sir, as ignorance is thought by many lords of the creation, to be a necessary appendage to the female sex, I shall not trouble you with apologies either for my writing, spelling, or style (by the bye, I have lost my spectacles, and am not much used to writing of late) as some glory in their ignorance, and why may not I be like my neighbours? If knowledge should become necessary to future females, I shall endeavour to have my nieces better educated than I was myself, but alas! I cannot undertake to make myself wiser, especially as I am rather too positive to change my opinion, and to confess the truth, when I do change my opinion, I do not like to acknowledge it, but in spite of conviction positively maintain the wrong. like many who pretend to more wisdom than I do—If the ambassador had not finished his embassy to Juno, I would have requested to know her opinion of female education, but I would willingly hope she would not order us to be such *vixens*, as she is herself; as the tongue ought rather to be employed as a *defensive* than an *offensive* weapon. Hoping you will excuse this trouble, and begging if you are a friend to the female sex you will put in this letter a few words in praise of the magazine, before you let any of the proprietors see my learned production, as I well know that they like other *literary* gentlemen, are not always able to resist the powerful influence of female flattery when it is judiciously administered.—If I accuse them of what they are not guilty, I will bear a reprimand. I am so rejoiced to think that I will see myself in print before I die, which I hope will not be very sudden, that the *cacoethes scribendi* (have I spelled that fine word right) has quite seized me, and I do

not know how much I might scribble, if I was not afraid to tre-pass too much on your patience. Sir, with the most profound respect to the Magazine company, I remain your humble servant.

TABITHA SIMPLE.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

IN obedience to Miss Tabitha's command, her letter has been forwarded to Nemorensis, who sends the annexed reply. The powerful adjuration towards the close of her letter, caused an eager search to find a compliment fit for insertion, according to her desire, but none could be discovered equal to her approbation expressed in her own language, and therefore it remains unaltered.—The alteration in the words *cacoethes scriblendi*, from the usual expression, is too happy to have been a mistake, in fact the *cacoethes* is much oftener that of *scriblendi* than of *scribendi*. It would be presumptuous to give opinions on the other delicate subjects on which she requires them, without more experience, but perhaps the Sage ***** may be so obliging as to undertake the task, as he is a friend to the

B.M.M.

TO MISS TABITHA SIMPLE.

MADAM,

The isle of Venus is far remote: the residence of Minerva it is not my fate to visit so often as I could desire, and Morpheus, instead of detaining has been more desirous to dismiss me, than I could wish, on many nights of late. The causes for the delay of the Court of Juno, had no reference to these *ci devant* divinities, and were chiefly a fear of the former part not having been agreeable, where it was most desired it should be so, and that the rest would, besides having the same fate, seem too tedious from the extent necessary to complete the design, being so much greater than was first imagined; some private occurrences also I must own, unfitted my mind from attending to such subjects at the time.

I hope you will excuse my differing in opinion with you, on the peculiar sensibility of literary men to flattery? but if for this word you insert female approbation, the charge

will then be undeniable. What manly heart can be insensible to the good opinion of one or other of the fair sex? I know of none; and literary men can least of all be so, meeting as they do, in the course of their studies, such perpetual instances to remind them of the influence of the ladies; and for my part, of all the chapters of the bible, I believe that of Esdras most firmly, which so beautifully describes the power of women.

I shall now conclude with hoping that my obedience to your wishes, in continuing Juno, may have the good fortune to please you better than before. I am madam your most devoted servant,

NEMORENSIS.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

THE COURT OF JUNO....A VISION.

Continued from No. XVI. p. 555.

AFTER the tables were cleared, a coffee was served in, and the ladies having taken a few dishes, separated to pursue various exercises and amusements in the open air, for the remainder of the afternoon. Some rode out in carriages, of the kind before mentioned, in various excursions to different parts of the island; others accompanied them on horseback; a third party furnished themselves with various fishing apparatus, and proceeded to a large lake, that extended from the extremity of an adjoining grove, to the residence of Diana, where a number of elegantly formed boats, were ready to receive them; which they managed with the greatest skill and dexterity; some skimming over the glassy expanse with extreme velocity, from the admirable construction of the boats, and formation of the sails; and others, for the sake of more healthful exercise, contending with light oars in various courses; and when sufficiently tired, amusing themselves with taking the finny prey, which the lake seemed to furnish in the greatest abundance. A third party preferred the more gentle exercise of walking, and divided for this purpose into several groups; some of which went to visit the favourite plants, which they cultivated in adjacent gardens; others to seek new plants,

through the winding paths of the neighbouring woods; and others merely to contemplate the beauties of nature, from the lofty hills, whose bases sloped upwards gradually from the palace, till their tops rose high above the plains, and commanded extensive prospects over the variegated landscapes of the island, on the one side, and over the ever changing ocean on the other, whose bosom perpetually ploughed by ships of all nations moving in every direction, and agitated by the winds, formed a beautiful contrast to the repose of the terrestrial view.

How gladly would I have accompanied any of these parties, at any other season, but the fatigues of the past day rendering more exercise painful, the amusement of contemplating the party on the lake from one of the large windows of an adjoining saloon, from which the most of it could be seen, seemed just then preferable to any other. The amiable Serena did me the honour to participate with me in this more placid occupation; but fearing that she remained behind from a polite attention to the charge she had received, I offered to accompany her to any of the parties she most preferred; but she assured me that to remain at home was no ways inconvenient or disagreeable, as she had been on a long excursion that morning to a distant part of the island, and very seldom found any inclination for a second in the same day. She said that all the ladies made it a rule to spend some part of the day in exercise in the open air, to which they principally owed that firm health which I might observe to bloom forth on almost every countenance, and that the rest was devoted to the pursuit of various studies or arts; but that instead of being all out at once, they found it more convenient for some to make their excursions in the morning and others in the evening, and that for her part she found the morning parties better suited to her other occupations. She then favoured me with accounts of the lake, the habitation of Diana, of which we could just discern some faint traces at a great distance, and of various other places,

which we beheld from the window, interspersed with observations which showed her good sense, the soundness of her judgment, and the goodness of her heart. After some time spent in this manner, she proposed that we should visit the library and such other parts of the building as I should prefer, as soon as I had sufficiently amused myself with the scene on the lake, in order to occupy the interval till the return of her companions.—I assured her I was ready to accompany her that instant, and left it entirely to her, what we should first visit, only requesting that the greatest part of the time, might be devoted to the library; then said she, to remind you of the strict union of the animal part of man, to his immortal mind, from the imaginary separation of which in this life such strange errors have arisen in human systems, falsely denominated philosophical; you shall see our kitchens, and our illuminating apparatus first, which will not require much time, and we will then proceed to the library without delay, and thus you will be able to contemplate almost at once, our repositories for corporeal and mental food. She then obligingly pointed out the way, and after proceeding through several spacious apartments, we arrived at a staircase which seemed to have something uncommon in its construction; but as it was covered with a beautiful carpet, I could not perceive how it was formed, till we had passed the first flight, when I found it was made entirely of cast iron, shaped in the lightest and most elegant form, with suitable balustrades of the finest scroll work. Serena observing me examining the stairs, informed they were made in this manner to prevent accidents by fire, and that all the floors of the apartments were supported by iron rafters, for the same reason, and were in other respects so secured that no fire could penetrate from one chamber to another. Along all the passages and the sides of the staircase were formed niches at regular intervals, in which were placed statues of the most exquisite forms; some allegorical, representing the various virtues, and commendable passions; and others

representing those of both sexes who had most excelled in them, or who were eminent in any science or art, or who had produced any useful invention, or improved any before invented; between those niches, as well as on the walls of most of the apartments, were arranged a variety of beautiful paintings, finished with the finest taste and skill, in the colouring, drawing, design, and management of the subject. Some of them represented those brilliant actions which history has handed down to us, wherein the mind of man seems to have risen above its level, and to have participated in the divine nature: others presented to view, scenes in various parts of the world, remarkable either for curious exhibitions of nature or of art; a third sort equally entertaining, though less sublime, minutely described the processes of numerous arts and manufactures, wherein the figures were drawn with so much life and grace, as to be no less admirable for the art with which they were executed, than for that which they represented. Serena explained the most remarkable of these paintings, as we proceeded, but as it would take weeks to examine them all as minutely as they deserved, I was forced to be satisfied with a very hasty view.

At the bottom of the stairs, we proceeded into a large apartment, which from the notions I had formed of kitchens in general, I supposed would be at least partly like some of the best of them; but how great was my surprize at entering, to find it as elegantly finished and constructed, as any apartment in the palace. Several pairs of large folding doors appeared in different parts of the walls; on opening these, in some of the recesses behind them were constructed sand baths, of the same kind as those used for chemical purposes; in others were only shelves with steam pipes running behind them, with various branches extending downwards; and in others were seen the external part of ovens of various sorts and sizes, adapted to the different processes of baking or roasting. On the sand baths, and in the steam apparatus, only glass or china vessels were used; and all odours or superfluous vapours,

were carried off by appropriate funnels. Heat was supplied for the different processes by the combustion of gases conveyed through pipes from external reservoirs, as was also the steam; both of which were produced by one fire, in an adjoining chamber; where was erected an extensive steam and gas apparatus, which besides supplying the kitchen, could be conveyed to every part of the building by tubes concealed in the substance of the walls; so as to afford an equable warmth by the one in the colder part of the year, and an abundant supply of brilliant light, by the combustion of the other, whenever wanted. The gas was purified, chiefly by passing it several times through water, so as to be entirely deprived of all disagreeable smell, and was sometimes rendered aromatic by the introduction of perfumes into the gas-holders.

After a short explanation by Serena of the parts of the apparatus that were least obvious to view, we passed across an open court, and ascended a flight of finely formed stone stairs, which led to the library. This was an apartment of prodigious length, lighted by extensive windows at both sides, between which partitions projected outwards, so as to form as many deep recesses as there were windows, in each of which the books were arranged on shelves in regular order, according to their subjects and dates, so that by the assistance of a well contrived catalogue, each volume could be found without delay. The fronts of the recesses, and the rest of the inside of this library were adorned with architectural decorations to correspond with the external appearance of the building, and the whole presented a beautiful view, in which utility and elegance were admirably united.

Serena having mentioned that great numbers of volumes had been saved from the wreck of the famous Alexandrian library, and placed in this, I expressed much eagerness to see them, but observing her face on the point of laughter, I found I must lower my expectations. She then kindly informed me that much trouble had been taken in examining them, and

that very few had been found of any use, that they mostly consisted of theories spun from the fertile brains of the Greek philosophers, which a few facts since known, showed to be absurd; of commentaries on these theories; and of explanations of the commentaries: that the books of history among them were in general so blended with fable, as to make the discovery of truth in them, nearly impossible; that however there were some few exceptions, which she would show me; and that she could not help smiling at a mistake on my part, which she had often before witnessed in others, and had been informed frequently occurred before she came to the island. She pointed out to me as chiefly worthy of notice, a history of the ancient empire of Iran from whence had emanated, the powerful governments of Egypt, China, Indostan, and of the Assyrian empire, in nearly the same manner conjectured by Sir William Jones, as she informed me; and of which the ancient Sanscrit language, originally spoken at its court, and the inscriptions on some antiquated monuments in the uninhabited parts of modern Persia, were the only memorials that remained. The work was in the Greek language accompanied by an explanation in Latin, and seemed to be a translation from some more ancient language. After I had sufficiently examined this curious book; she showed me a compleat collection of Livy's works including all the books, which are wanting in our editions. She then led me to a curious collection of all the works of Hero Alexandrinus, few of which are known to our literati, containing drawings of numerous engines, and fabrications of antiquity, among which I chiefly remarked sections and plans of the Roman and Grecian galleys, which showed how very absurd most of the explanations were of the names *triremes*, *biremes*, *octoremes*, &c. by which they were known. Last of all she reserved as the greatest curiosity, the whole of the works of Archimedes, and the drafts, made by his own hands of the numerous machines, by which he had defended Syracuse so long against one of the greatest generals of his time.

I passed some most delightful hours in examining those venerable monuments of genius, with Serena, and in hearing her sensible remarks on them. The time stole away insensibly in her enchanting company, and the sun had already touched the horizon, before his descent was perceived. It was not however till the light diminished too much to view the books with any facility, that I could prevail on myself to lay them aside. Just then we heard the noise of the carriages of the ladies returning from their excursion, and Serena brought me by another passage into the last apartment in which they had assembled, in order to meet them. They soon afterwards entered in several separate groups, with their countenances animated by the glow of healthful exercise, and in high spirits from the amusement it afforded; several went up to Serena to show her the fine fish they had caught, and others exhibited various curious plants and flowers, which they had gathered in their walks. They continued discoursing on the various classes to which these belonged; till Serena expressing a wish for lights, one of the young ladies went to a niche at one end of the room, in which stood a small statue of Hymen with his torch pointed outwards. She held a little wax taper before the torch, and turned a winch in the pedestal, and immediately a blaze darted from the torch to the taper. I thought this but a scanty light for such a large apartment; but I soon found I had mistaken the first step in the business for the whole; for the young lady passing across the room, with the taper, set fire to some filaments of flax which descended from the ceiling, and instantly the flame ran along a slight band of the same material, which I had not before noticed, wound along the extremities of a number of elegant branches appended to the ceiling; and at the same moment a brilliant light, splendidly illuminated the chamber, from the combustion of a fine gas proceeding from the ends of the branches; which was caused to flow into them by turning a valve the handle of which was at one side of the pedestal of the little statue,

the light was clear, steady, and mild, and its being overhead, prevented its brilliancy from offending the eyes.—The quickness, and elegant management by which the whole was lighted, had a very fine effect.

Their evening repast was now spread for the ladies; and different tables were prepared to suit their different inclinations; one was furnished with tea, coffee, chocolate and a variety of fine cakes, and the equipage fit for serving them: and on another were laid several dishes of wild fowl and other game, which had been sent in by the nymphs of Diana, a variety of fine shell fish from the coasts of the island, a few dishes of the fish caught by the ladies, some very fine pastry and rich cream, and a profusion of exquisite fruit, some choice wines were also placed on the table, but of these the ladies partook with the greatest moderation, and for the most part mingled with a large portion of water, merely as a wholesome beverage.

Serena presided at the tea table, and the other ladies entertained us with an interesting account of the various, little adventures that had occurred in the several amusing exercises in which they had been engaged.

After a short time spent at the tables, the whole was removed, and the ladies seated in a circle, amused themselves with various little works of embroidery, netting, or useful needlework, while they listened attentively to the recitation of a poem composed by Serena on the progress of Reason, Science and the Arts, and the various states of society passed by their extension.

While Serena recited this poem her countenance was highly animated by the enthusiasm with which the subject inspired her, and she looked, all she felt. The measure of the poetry was perfectly correct, the language elegant, the subjects happily assorted, and the whole was delivered with a harmony of voice, and a gracefulness of action that is undecipherable. It would not be possible to give but a slight sketch of this admirable production, but even that may be acceptable.

She first described the state of man-

kind before science had illuminated their minds, or the arts bestowed on them any of the numerous comforts, which even the lowest classes of civilized society enjoy (such as we now find them on the coasts of New Holland and the Southern extremity of America, and such as the ancient poets have all represented them) without houses, without cloaths, without foresight, gathering scanty meals from the casual productions of the woods or the shores, and perishing by famine at every unusual deficiency of them; sheltering under rocks, and in excavations made in banks by their nails and fingers alone; and imagining angry divinities raging in the storm, the conflagration, and the flood, darting terrific lightning, and rolling deafening thunder, to astonish and destroy them.

She touched slightly on the still more dreadful state that occasionally occurred, when man overcome by un pitying hunger, hunted his fellow man as a prey and feasted on his flesh; a state almost incredible, was it not but too well attested by those European crews, whose mangled companions have fallen in this manner, on the shores of New Zealand; and, did we not witness the promptitude with which man, in even his most civilized state starts forth to embroil his hands in the blood of his fellow creatures, for the most trivial interests, or for imaginary injuries; the eagerness with which the cold blooded villain in private life, twists the laws, and exerts his diabolical cunning to deprive his neighbour of his means of subsistence, to add perhaps to a mass of wealth before too great, and leaves him to perish without remorse, and the alacrity with which the still bolder miscreant, by unfeeling speculations of avarice on the necessities of life, dooms thousands to perish by excruciating famine in countries less favoured by justice than ours.

She next described the happy change made by the introduction of the primary arts, when men learned to protect themselves from the elements by cottages, and tents, to cloath themselves with skins, and to support themselves by the produce of their flocks and herds.

She afterwards related the improvements made by the invention of agriculture by which the same country admitted of a population encreased a thousand fold; and its inhabitants were enabled to live in those large collected masses, in which the human intellect arrives to its greatest perfection.

She then recounted the happy period when Minerva descended to give to man the sciences, and the more sublime arts, by which his comforts are so greatly extended, and his understanding so much exalted. She traced the effect of each art and science, on mind and manners as they were introduced, with precision and judgment; and dwelt on the wonderful influence of the whole combination at present, when man makes all the elements his servants, compels the waters, and the winds to work for him, and to transport him to the most distant regions, and the devouring flame to modify all substances to his use, and to put in motion the most ponderous engines, and even makes the air bear him aloft on its soft substance above the flight of the eagle.

She represented ignorance, superstition, avarice, and ambition, as a crew of infernal spirits, leagued against the happiness of man, opposed to Minerva, and contending by every artifice to check the progress of science and the improvements of art, and the extension of truth; raising persecutions against those who devoted their lives to those studies for the good of mankind, and where persecution could not extend, blackening their characters, and rendering their lives miserable, by every misrepresentation which falsehood could suggest; sometimes openly impelling the infatuated multitude against these their best friends, and sometimes directing against them the secret machinations of concealed malice. At other times assuming the mask of an austere religion, and a rigidly partial morality, raising an outcry against some frailty inseparable from humanity, or the neglect of some trivial ceremonious ordinances, that their own infernal vices might the better escape detection, while the public gaze was stupidly turned on the assigned

objects, and under this hypocritical cover privately patronizing gluttony, fraud, rapine, injustice, treachery, and the very follies and vices they condemned in public; exciting heaven and earth to oppose the progress of truth, to injure its votaries, and to compel mankind to judge all things, by the distorted, and erroneous standards which they set up in its place, and which would best serve their own vile interests.

She drew a melancholy picture of the many exalted characters, who had suffered by the malice of these fiends, for their love of science and of truth, from the earliest ages to the present time; beginning with Orpheus, torn to pieces by a savage multitude for striving to instruct them in the rudiments of science and the arts; proceeding through many similar instances, to show us Galileo pining in the prisons of the inquisition, and forced to deny the testimony of his senses to obtain his liberty; and lastly in our own times, exhibiting Priestley compelled to fly to the extremity of the earth from his ungrateful country, by a storm of unmerited calumny and persecution; and Lavoisier falling beneath the bloody axe of the worst of these vile fiend's votaries, those monsters who have so much degraded human nature.

She then traced the injuries done to truth, and science, and the happiness of mankind, by the errors of zeal in their cause without knowledge: but over the few worthy, though mistaken characters who had erred in this way, she drew the veil of compassion, and sighed for the imperfection of humanity.

She concluded with the representation of the happy state the world might be in, from the farther advancement of truth, science and art, showed that by them disease, famine, and human misery might be nearly extirpated, and even the infernal scourge of war banished for ever, in the final overthrow of ignorance, avarice, superstition, and ambition. But while she hoped much progress might be made towards this happy state, she doubted if it ever would arrive, or if it did, it could alone take place at a very distant period.

When she had finished, the other ladies all arose and embraced her, lavishing on her those encomiums she had so well merited; and declaring their happiness in having her for their companion, and their directress under their celestial mistress. When they had sufficiently expressed their delight in this manner, Serena took her harp, and several of the ladies accompanied her on various other instruments, in a concert of one of the most exquisitely harmonious pieces of music I had ever heard. When this was ended most of the ladies retired to their private apartments for the night, and Serena with a few others remaining, offered to conduct me to that intended for me, observing that the various fatigues I had lately suffered required rest, and that much worth rising early for, remained to be seen on the island. I thankfully accepted her kind offer, and she and the ladies who remained, on the way to their own apartments, shortly after showed me one near the library, wished me good rest, and informed me I would find them in the morning in the chamber from which we last parted.

I found the bed and the whole furniture of this room, elegant, commodious, and of admirable contrivance, and immediately lay down, and soon fell asleep amidst the most pleasing contemplations of the various excellencies of the admirable Serena, which made more impression on my mind than all the extraordinary scenes I had witnessed.

I awakened early next morning more refreshed by sleep, from the exhilarating nature of the air of the island, than ever I had been before, prepared myself for going to the ladies, and soon joined them in the saloon. A few of them were sitting at a table on which breakfast was prepared, at the upper end of which sat the lovely Serena in a riding dress, which showed her admirable form to the greatest advantage. The rest of the ladies had gone about the usual occupations of the day.

Serena told me that she intended to show me first that day the chemical apparatus, which for reasons, which would be obvious when we arrived at it, was situated at the foot of the

mountain, a few miles distant, and that on our return we might visit the residence of Diana. I returned my best acknowledgments for the trouble she took on my account, and shortly after we had done breakfast, we proceeded to the gate of the palace, where two beautiful horses, of great spirit and docility, were ready equipped waiting for us. I assisted the lovely Serena to mount her horse, which she effected with much gracefulness, and we immediately rode off at a brisk pace.

The road lay through a country presenting various beautiful views, from the several combinations of the woods, the fruitful fields, and the lake seen from different points; but an entertainment vastly superior to what they would yield, was afforded by the conversation of my fair companion. In the course of which she informed me, that Minerva had laid the cause of the Irish ladies before Juno, who had expressed great displeasure at the conduct of Jupiter, and had resolved to go herself to see justice done to my amiable countrywomen, and to bring her spouse to a due sense of the impropriety of his conduct; that Minerva and Diana were to consult farther with her that day about the business, and that one of them, if not both, would accompany her; and that when the time of departure was fixed I should be admitted to an audience.

We now approached the foot of the mountain, where some handsome buildings were erected, at no great distance from the sea, a small inlet from which extended in that direction. The laboratory, and some works of more importance, were situated here; but Serena informed me we must go on to the top of the mountain for reasons which she would afterwards explain; and accordingly after a long route through a winding road of gradual ascent we at length got within a short distance of the summit, which was then hid from view by a cloud, which seemed to hover over it in an extraordinary manner.

From this place we had a fine view of the Grecian seas, and of the various fine islands with which they were covered; with a distant, and faint

prospect of the Continent of Asia on one hand, and that of Europe on the other.

After stopping here a few minutes we proceeded upwards and soon became surrounded with the thick vapours of the cloud, which confined our view to short bounds. We now approached the foot of a lofty and extensive tower; the top of which seemed overshadowed by trees spreading out their branches in every direction.

Serena told me that this tower contained at once the source of the defense of the island, and of most of their chemical operations, and bidding me remark well its height, and the extensive spreading of the branches, at its top, said, as we were descending she would explain its use and vast power. A small time sufficed for this examination: for having rode round it, and perceiving that its only aperture had been built up with a solid wall, so that it could not be entered, and knowing that my curiosity respecting it was so soon to be gratified, it appeared superfluous to ask any questions about it, or to spend more time in looking at it.

We accordingly proceeded to descend, and then Serena spoke to me as follows. "This tower, the source of so many extraordinary operations, is not as you suppose covered with trees; what seems to you trees, is in reality composed of vast ramifications of copper, from which massy bars of the same metal extend downwards under ground to the buildings at the foot; these bars are cased with a composition that excludes all moisture, and terminate in the manner which you will soon perceive. From what I have said, you will easily conceive how this fabric operates as a collector of electricity on a vast scale. The clouds are almost always in a different state of electricity from the earth; the great elevation of the tower places it on a level with them; and as they approach, the ramifications of the copper bars, which all terminate in points of platina, attract the electricity from them, and it thence passes downwards in the greatest abundance to the works below, where vast reservoirs for it are prepared;—me on the principles of what you

call electrical batteries, and others on better constructions more lately discovered. These batteries we can discharge in any proportion we please, so as to pass their fire round the island by the bars, which you might have observed inlaid in the rocks all round it; we can also manage it so, that a discharge will take place, through any living beings or other conducting substances, which form a communication between any two of them, or between any one and the sea. You can hence conceive how the island is impregnable by any armies however great, since to destroy a thousand invaders at one shock, requires only an operation that a child may perform. All the mariners in the neighbouring seas, dread the effects of this apparatus, which some of them have sufficiently experienced to confirm the opinion of its certainty, and they hence carefully avoid the island. The discoveries which have lately been made by European chemists, of the efficacy of electricity in chemical operations will give you some insight into what is done here; if you only conceive, that instead of the minute portions of matter, on which you have seen experiments performed, we operate on vast masses at once; and that our processes are extended to numerous operations, which your greatest chemists have not yet thought of, though in this island they have been in use for ages. One farther effect of the apparatus I have yet to state: which is, that by it we can cause rain to descend in the vicinity of the mountain when we please, by letting the electricity have a free discharge below into the earth and sea, which occasions the clouds to collect so fast, and draws their electricity off so quickly, that their waters fall in copious rain; which on ordinary occasions only trickle down the copper branches on the tower, and form a small stream at its foot."

Shortly after this we entered the buildings at the foot of the mountain, where I viewed in detail all the wonderful operations of which Serena had given a general description; but to describe them particularly would require a volume to itself. I shall there-

fore only say, that by these extensive electrical processes, the ores of all the metals were reduced to the metallic state in large quantities, and the metals themselves combined so as to form alloys, which no common processes can effect. Soda and Potash were extracted from a variety of stones which contain them, and the metals of these alkalis were made to combine with others, so as to yield many useful substances, besides assisting in the reduction of common metallic ores. The metals of lime, siliceous alumine, and of the other earths, were also produced in great abundance, and many other curious operations were performed which brevity compels me to pass over.

I could not forbear to inquire, whether any progress had been made in the great objects of the ancient alchemists: and if we might ever hope to have the king of metals in greater abundance, or perfection, or the art of prolonging life improved.

Serena smiling archly at my question replied that the king of metals might now be had in an inexhaustible abundance, and that they had lately found means to much improve its quality. That the art of prolonging life had also been much improved; that she would give me a phial of a liquor, an exclusive use of which for drink, observing the directions on the paper which enclosed it, would much extend the usual span of human life: and she would also show me some of the improved metal, and if I could find any way of transporting it would give me as much of it in its ordinary state, as I chose to take; with these words she entered a large apartment, where several ladies were employed in conducting various chemical processes; and brought out to me two papers, one containing the metal, and the other the phial. I unfolded that containing the metal first, and found in it only a piece of very bright iron of a somewhat whiter colour than usual. The other paper enveloped a phial of pure water, and the words written within it were: temperance, cleanliness, exercise, air, warmth, foresight, calmness, prudence.

I imagined at first that Serena had only been jesting with my prejudices but a moment's reflection showed me that she in reality had given me a useful lesson; for is not that metal which subdues and modifies all things on the earth, which is at once the most useful and most powerful, properly speaking the king of metals? and on the other point, does not most of our diseases arise from neglect of a proper attention to the precepts surrounding the phial? and to the use of spirituous and fermented liquors, in place of that most wholesome and natural one contained within it? Instead then of joining in a laugh against myself, as I first intended, I thanked her sincerely for the precepts she had so prettily conveyed to me; and requested information relative to the uncommon colour of the iron. She replied that it was the improved metal she had talked of, that it was iron deprived of its tendency to rust, which was chiefly effected by combining it with platina, by the operation of their powerful apparatus, and that in this state it was in reality superior to all other metals.

Having now examined the various wonderful processes going on at the laboratory as accurately as time would permit, Serena proposed we should return to the palace: and on our way there, we pursued a different road, which led to the farther end of the lake where the residence of Diana was situated.

The grounds of this charming retreat were all laid out, in that happy taste, which selects the various natural beauties most appropriate to their outline, and disposes of them so as to produce the finest and most novel effects, by that enchanting art, which first originated in China, and has since been carried to so much perfection in England. Here unbrageous woods, cooling streams, resounding cascades in contrast with the still surface of the lake, verdant lawns in rich variety of sloping and level surfaces, and numerous wooded islands, some connected to the shore, and to each other by rustic bridges, and

others detached at a distance. The shores of the lake, and round the islands sometimes rough with precipitous rocks, and again advancing far into the water their verdant slopes, altogether formed one of the richest scenes of rural beauty I had ever beheld. The buildings which were mostly situated on the islands, were constructed on the most improved species of Chinese architecture, on platforms a little raised above the ground, but without any second stories. The pillars which supported the roofs were covered with a damask work of gold foliage on a green ground highly varnished, and the spaces between the windows, which were very large, with folding sashes, were also finished in the same style; but were for the most part concealed either by flowering shrubs trained along lattice work in front; or by curious plants placed in moveable vases before them; the furniture was all extremely elegant in the design and rich in the materials, but made nearly devoid of ornament. In several places fine tents were erected, which Diana frequently preferred for their coolness, and the facility of transportation to accommodate distant excursions.

Various enclosures here were laid out in extensive gardens, but so contrived that the walls were all concealed, either by banks sloped up to them, or by other devices. In these all the plants that the earth affords were collected according to their classes; and for such as required a temperature above that of the island, ample hot-houses were erected on plans prepared by Minerva herself. Diana was at that time gone to the palace of Juno, and most of her ladies were either amusing themselves with the chase, or looking after the various sylvan animals which they reared in distant parks. Those who remained were engaged in the cares which the numerous plants of the gardens required. There was a frankness in

the manner of these ladies, that was highly pleasing, and their countenances glowed with all the charms of exuberant health; and their conversation respecting their plants and animals was extremely entertaining: but it wanted that rich variety, and that depth of observation which gave such delight in the discourses of the ladies of Minerva. After visiting a park on the most elevated part of the grounds, where the newly arrived llamas were kept, and admiring these beautiful, gentle, and highly useful animals; we took leave of Diana's ladies, and set out again to the palace: on the way to which, Serena informed me that Diana spent most of her time in botanical pursuits and studies at present, and in collecting and rearing all the animals of an innocent and useful nature, which she could hear of: that she did not hunt near so often as formerly, and when she did, frequently returned without killing the animals which she ran down, having dogs trained to take them alive, whenever she pleased. That though the ladies of Minerva never joined her nymphs in the chase, they spent much of their time in company with them in their other pursuits, and most of their leisure hours were passed in the delightful grounds we had just visited.

We now reached the palace, and on our arrival, Serena told me that she must give some directions about the works then going forward, but that she would soon join me again to show me the other matters which deserved most notice, of those I had not yet seen, and that in the mean time I might amuse myself, either in viewing the occupations of the ladies in the hall of the arts, or in making farther researches in the library. I preferred the latter, wishing for an opportunity to submit to reflection, and imprint on my memory, the various remarkable matters I had seen that day.

NEMORENSIS.

To be Continued.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF DISTINGUISHED PERSONS.

ACCOUNT OF WILLIAM COWPER, THE
POET, EXTRACTED FROM HIS LIFE,
BY WILLIAM HAYLEY; INTERSPERSED
WITH ORIGINAL OBSERVATIONS.

"Poets themselves must fall like those
they sung,
Deaf the praise'd ear, and mute the
tuneful tongue."

WILLIAM COWPER, was born at Berkhamstead, in England, on the 26th of November 1731, and had the misfortune to lose his mother when he was only six years of age. To have lost a parent, of a character so virtuous and endearing, at an early period of his childhood, was the prime misfortune of Cowper, and what contributed perhaps in the highest degree to the dark colouring of his subsequent life. The infancy of Cowper was delicate in no common degree, and his constitution discovered at a very early period that morbid tendency to diffidence, to melancholy, and despair, which darkened as he advanced in years, into periodical fits of the most deplorable depression. Such were the talents, the virtues, and the misfortunes of this wonderful person, that it is hardly possible for Biography, extensive as her province is, to speak of a more interesting individual.

On first quitting the house of his parents, he was sent to school in Hertfordshire, under the care of Dr. Pitman, and it is probable he was removed from it in consequence of an ocular complaint. He seems to have been in some danger of resembling Milton in the misfortune of blindness, as he resembled him, more happily in the fervency of a devout and poetic spirit. The little Cowper was sent to school in the year of his mother's death, and how ill suited the scene was to his peculiar character, must be evident to all, who have heard him describe his sensations in that season of life, which is often very erroneously extolled as the happiest period of human existence. He has been frequently heard to lament the persecution that he sustained in his childish years, from the cruelty of

his school-fellows, in the two scenes of his education. His own forcible expression, represented him at Westminster, as not daring to raise his eye above the shoe buckles of the elder boys, who were too apt to tyrannize over his gentle spirit. The acuteness of his feelings in his childhood, rendered those important years (which might have produced under tender cultivation, a series of lively enjoyments) miserable years of increasing timidity and depression. Yet to this perhaps the world is indebted for the pathetic and moral eloquence of those forcible admonitions to parents, which give interest and beauty to his admirable poem on public schools. Poets may be said to realize, in some measure, the poetical idea of the nightingale's singing with a thorn at her breast, as their most exquisite songs have often originated in the acuteness of their personal sufferings. Had the constitutional shyness and timidity of Cowper, been gradually dispelled by the rare advantage of a private education, his early years would certainly have been happier; but men who are partial to public schools, will probably doubt, if any system of private tuition could have proved more favourable to the future display of his genius, than such an education as he received at Westminster, where he undoubtedly acquired the accomplishment, and reputation of scholarship.

In 1740 he left Westminster, and was placed in the office of an attorney, where he resided for three years. The law is a kind of soldiership, and like the profession of arms, it may be said to require for the constitution of its heroes,

"A frame of adamant, a soul of fire."

The soul of Cowper had indeed the fire, but fire so refined, that it could not be expected to shine in the gross atmosphere of worldly contention—Perhaps there never existed a being possessing intellectual powers naturally strong, and highly cultivated, so totally unfit to encounter the bustle and perplexities of public life. But the

extreme modesty and shyness of his nature, which disqualified him for scenes of business and ambition, endeared him inexpressibly to those, who had opportunity to enjoy his society and faculties to appreciate the uncommon excellence of his interesting character.

When he quitted the house of the solicitor, where he was placed to acquire the rudiments of litigation, he settled himself in chambers of the Inner Temple, as a regular student of law: but although he resided there to the age of thirty-three, he rambled (according to his own colloquial account of his early years) from the thorny road of his austere patroness, Jurisprudence, into the primrose paths of literature and poetry. He wrote and printed both prose and verse, as the concealed assistant of less diffident authors. Speaking of his own early life, Cowper says, with that extreme modesty, which was one of his most remarkable characteristics. "From the age of twenty to thirty-three, I was occupied, or ought to have been, in the study of the law; from thirty three to sixty, I have spent my time in the country, where my reading has been only an apology for idleness, and where, when I had not either a Magazine or a Review, I was sometimes a carpenter, at others, a bird-cage-maker, or a gardener, or a drawer of landscapes. At fifty years of age I commenced an author: it is a whim that has served me longest, and best, and will probably be my last."

In his thirty first year, he was nominated to the offices of reading clerk, and clerk of the private committees of the house of Lords. But the peculiarities of his wonderful mind, rendered him unable to support the ordinary duties of his new office; for the idea of reading in public, proved a source of torture to his tender and apprehensive spirit. An expedient was devised to promote his interest, without wounding his feelings. Resigning his situation of reading clerk, he was appointed clerk of the journals in the same house of parliament, with a hope that his personal appearance in that assembly would be dispensed with;—but a parliamentary dispute made it necessary for him to appear at the

bar of the house of lords, to entitle himself publicly to that office. Speaking of this important incident, he expresses what he endured at the time, in the following words; "They whose spirits are formed like mine, to whom a public exhibition of themselves is mortal poison, may have some idea of the horrors of my situation—others can have none." His terrors on this occasion arose to such an astonishing height, that they completely overwhelmed his reason. After his brother had vainly attempted to establish a lasting tranquillity in his mind, by friendly and religious conversation, it was found necessary to remove him to St. Alban's where he resided a considerable time, under the care of that eminent physician, Dr. Cotton. The misfortune of mental derangement is a subject of such awful delicacy, that it is rather our duty to sink in tender silence, than to proclaim, with circumstantial, and offensive temerity, the minute particulars of a calamity, to which all human beings are exposed, and perhaps in proportion, as they have received from nature those delightful, but dangerous gifts, a heart of exquisite tenderness, and a mind of creative energy:

"This of all maladies that man infest,
Claims most compassion, and receives the least,
But with a soul, that ever felt the sting
Of sorrow, sorrow is a sacred thing."

It is in this awful and instructive light, that Cowper himself teaches us to consider this calamity.

From December 1763, to the following July, the pure mind of Cowper appears to have laboured under the severest sufferings of morbid depression, but the medical skill of Dr. Cotton, gradually succeeded in removing the indescribable load of religious despondency, which had clouded the admirable faculties of this innocent and upright man. Devout* contemplation

*It must be regretted that the amiable Cowper's melancholy was made still blacker by his sentiments on religion. His opinions were of the high Calvinistic stamp; his extreme diffidence would not permit him to suppose he was one of the elect; humility and his fears classed him among the reprobate. His letters, particularly to his friend, the Rev. J. Newton, breathe a

became more and more dear to his reviving spirit, resolving to relinquish all thoughts of a laborious profession, and all intercourse with the busy world, he acquiesced in a plan of settling at Huntingdon, by the advice of his brother who resided in Bennet college, Cambridge.

In June 1763, after the reviving invalid had removed to Huntingdon he was introduced by accident into the family of Mr. Unwin, which afforded him one of the most singular and valuable female friends, that ever watched an afflicted mortal in seasons of overwhelming adversity. He gives a most interesting account of this family, and of the manner of spending his time, in the following extracts from his letters to his friends. "I have added another family to the number of my acquaintances. Their name is Unwin; the most agreeable people imaginable, quite sociable and free from ceremony. They treat me more like a relation than a stranger. The old gentleman is a man of learning and good sense, and as simple as Parson Adams. His wife has a very uncommon understanding, and has read much to excellent purpose; go there when I will, I find a house full of peace and cordiality in all its parts, and am sure to hear no scandal, but such discourse instead of it, as we are all the better for. As to amusements, I mean what the world calls such, we have none; this place indeed swarms with them, and cards and dancing are the professed business of almost all the *gentle* inhabitants of Huntingdon. We refuse to take part in them, or to be accessaries of this way of murdering our time. We breakfast commonly between eight and nine; till eleven, we read either the scriptures or sermons; at eleven we attend divine service; from twelve

more gloomy spirit than religion ought to inspire, for according to his doctrine in a less gloomy moment,

"Religion does not censure or exclude, Unnumbered pleasures, harmlessly pursued."

Though he had caught an air of Calvinistic austerity, yet according to his friend Hayley's account, he had not a particle of Calvin's intolerance in his heart.

till three, we separate and amuse ourselves as we please. During that interval I either read in my apartment, or walk, or ride, or work in the garden. If the weather permits we adjourn to the garden after dinner where we have generally the pleasure of religious conversation until tea time. At night we read and converse as before till supper, and commonly finish the evening either with hymns, or a sermon, and last of all the family are called to prayers. I need not tell *you*, that such a life as this is consistent with the utmost cheerfulness, and accordingly we are all happy."

In July 1767, Mr. Unwin was killed in consequence of a fall from his horse, and change of scene appeared desirable, both to Mrs. Unwin and the interesting Recluse, whom she had generously requested to continue under her care; accordingly they removed to Olney on the 14th of October 1767. The time of Cowper, in his new situation, seems to have been chiefly devoted to religious contemplation, to social prayer, and to active charity. In the following year the tender feelings of Cowper were severely wounded by the illness and death of his learned, pious, and affectionate brother.

In 1773 he sunk into such severe paroxysms of religious despondency that he required an attendant of the most gentle, vigilant, and inflexible spirit. Such an attendant he found in that faithful guardian, whom he loved as a mother, and who watched over him during this long fit of depressive malady, extended through several years, with that mixture of tenderness and fortitude, which constitutes the inestimable influence of maternal protection. The spirit of Cowper emerged by slow degrees from its very deep dejection; and before his mind had sufficiently recovered to employ itself on literary composition, it sought and found much salutary amusement in educating three tame hares; the variety of their dispositions became a source of great entertainment to his compassionate and contemplative mind. His three tame hares, Mrs. Unwin, and Mr. Newton, were, for a considerable time his only companions. Mrs. Un-

win strongly solicited her friend to devote his thoughts to poetry of considerable extent, on his recovery from his very long fit of mental dejection, suggesting to him at the same time, the first subject of his song, "The Progress of Error," which is the second poem in the first volume of his poems.

In 1781 he published the first volume of his poems; the immediate success was very far from equal to its extraordinary merit. For some time it seemed to be neglected by the public, although the first poem in the collection contains such a powerful image of its author, as might be thought sufficient not only to excite attention, but to secure attachment.*

Lady Austen, whose benevolent ingenuity was exerted to guard the spirits of Cowper from sinking again into that hypochondriacal dejection, to which even in her company, he still sometimes discovered an alarming tendency, suggested to him the tale of John Gilpin, and it is a remarkable fact that that delightful ballad, so full of gaiety and humour, was composed at a time the spirit of the poet was very deeply tinged with his oppressive malady. As an admirer of Milton's, Lady Austen was partial to blank verse, and often solicited her friend to try his powers in that species of composition. After repeated solicitation, he promised her, if she would furnish the subject, to comply with her request.—"Oh," she replied, "you can never be in want of a subject:—you can write upon

any:—write upon this sofa." The Poet obeyed her command, and from a lively repartee of familiar conversation arose a poem of many thousand verses, unexampled, perhaps, both in its origin and its excellence. The "Task" appears to have been composed in the winter of 1784, and immediately after he wrote *Tirocinium* or a review of schools.

In the year 1784 terminated his friendship with the highly pleasing and valuable friend Lady Austen. Her friendship was highly advantageous to him, and he loved her as a sister, of a heart and mind congenial to his own. But Mrs. Unwin, though by no means destitute of mental accomplishments, was eclipsed by the brilliancy of Lady Austen, and feared to lose all mental influence over a man of genius, whom she had long been accustomed to inspire and guide. Cowper felt his painful situation, and found he must relinquish one of his friends: his gratitude for past services of unexampled magnitude and weight, would not allow him to hesitate, and with a resolution which does the greatest honour to his feelings, he wrote a farewell letter to Lady Austen, lamenting the circumstances that forced him to renounce the society of a friend, whose enchanting talents, and kindness had proved so agreeably instrumental to the revival of his spirits, and to the exercise of his fancy. It must be regretted that Cowper was thus forced to renounce all acquaintance with Lady Austen, and it throws a shade over Mrs. Unwin's character, which all her kindness and affection to him cannot efface.

In 1785 the second volume of his poems was published, which raised him to the summit of poetical reputation. In 1786 he removed from Olney to Weston, and after five years of intense labour in which nothing could withhold him from his interesting work, except that cruel and oppressive malady, which suspended his powers of application for some months, he published his complete version of Homer in two quarto volumes on the 1st of July 1791. The active and powerful mind of Cowper wanted no long interval of rest after finishing the work of five laborious years; on

*The late amiable publisher, Joseph Johnson, who had the care of printing all his works, remarked that if the second volume of Cowper's poems, had not been brought into notice in the circles of fashion, Cowper, notwithstanding his great merit, would have been scarcely known as a poet. Such a declaration from one who knew so much of the trade of publishing, points out the powerful influence of fashion even in the walks of literature. Johnson added that he had in his warehouse of unsaleable books, many which would never sell, although they possessed as much merit, as others of great reputation in the literary world. The success of books, he added, much depends on their being talked into

feel, that regular hours and mental exertion were essentially requisite to his comfort and happiness. He possessed at this period, all the admirable faculties of his mind, and all the native tenderness of his heart; but there was something indescribable in his appearance, which led his friends to apprehend, that without some event in his favour, to re-animate his spirits, he would gradually sink into hopeless dejection. The state of his aged, infirm companion, Mrs. Unwin, afforded additional ground for increasing solicitude.

It was a spectacle that might awaken compassion in the sternest of human characters; to see the health, the comfort, and the little fortune of a man so distinguished by intellectual endowments, and by moral excellence, perishing most deplorably. A sight so affecting made many friends of Cowper solicitous that his declining life, should be honourably protected by public munificence. Men of all parties agreed that a pension might be granted to an author of his acknowledged merit, with graceful propriety. In 1794 he again relapsed into melancholy, and for sometime refused food of every kind, except now and then a very small piece of toasted bread dipped generally in water, sometimes mixed with a little wine. He persisted in refusing such medicines as were indispensably necessary to his state of body. He was so overwhelmed with his oppressive malady, that he did not show the least satisfaction on seeing his friends. It is the nature of this tremendous melancholy, not only to enshroud, and stifle the finest faculties of the mind, but to suspend and apparently annihilate, for a time, the strongest and best rooted affections of the heart.

On the 23d of April, when his compassionate relation Lady Hesketh was watching over the dejected sufferer, a letter from Lord Spencer arrived to announce the intended grant of such a pension from the King to Cowper, as would ensure an honourable competence for the residue of his life. This intelligence produced in the minds of his friends, very lively emotions of delight, yet blended with pain almost as powerful; for it was painful, in

no trifling degree, to reflect that these desirable smiles of good fortune could not impart even a faint glimmering of joy to the dejected invalid. His friends however had the animating hope, that a day would arrive, when they might see him receive, with cheerful gratitude, this recompence for merit universally acknowledged. It was still hoped from the native vigour of his frame, that, as he had formerly struggled through longer fits of this oppressive malady, his darkened mind would emerge from this calamitous eclipse. These hopes were considerably encreased at a subsequent period, but alas! they were delusive; for although he recovered sufficient command of his faculties to write a few occasional poems, and retouch his *Homer*, yet the prospect was never realized.

He remained at Weston, until the latter end of July 1795: a long season of the darkest depression! in which the best medical advice, and the influence of time, appeared equally unable to lighten that afflictive burthen which pressed so incessantly on his spirits. At this period it became absolutely necessary to make a great exertion, for the relief of the various sufferers at Weston. Mrs. Unwin was sinking fast into second childhood; the health of Lady Hesketh was much impaired, and the dejection of Cowper was so severe, that a change of scene was considered essential to the preservation of his life. Under circumstances so deplorable, his kind and attentive friend and relation, the Rev. Mr. Johnson, removed the two venerable invalids from Buckinghamshire, into Norfolk. The local attachment of Cowper to his favourite village of Weston, was strong in no common degree, and rendered his migration from it, though an event of medical necessity; yet a scene of peculiar sufferings. Those who knew his passionate attachment to that village, how deeply he lamented his absence from it, and how little he gained by his change of situation, can hardly help regretting that he did not close his days in that favourite scene, and find at last, according to the wish that he tenderly expresses in the conclusion of the *Task*....

"A safe retreat
Beneath the turf, that he had often trod."

In 1796 he lost his friend and companion Mrs. Unwin, the Mary of the Poet. Instead of mourning for the loss of a person, in whose life he had seemed to live, so deeply had his oppressive malady seized him, that all perception of that loss was mercifully taken from him, and from the moment when he hurried away from the inanimate object of his filial attachment, he appeared to have no memory of her having existed; he never asked a question concerning her funeral, nor ever mentioned her name; although during her tedious illness he bestowed incessant, affectionate attention to his aged friend.

To watch over the disordered health of afflicted genius, and to lead a powerful, but oppressed spirit, by gentle encouragement, to exert itself in salutary occupation, is an office that requires a very rare union of tenderness, intelligence, and fortitude. To contemplate, and minister to a great mind in a state that borders on mental desolation, is like surveying in the midst of a desert, the tottering ruins of palaces and temples, where the faculties of the spectator are almost absorbed in wonder and regret, and where every step is taken with awful apprehension.

In January 1800, a complication of new maladies began to threaten his life. He was with very great difficulty persuaded to take the remedies prescribed, and to try the exercise of a post chaise, an exercise, which he could not bear longer than the 22d of February. The deplorable inquietude and darkness of his latter years were terminated by a most gentle and tranquil dissolution. He passed through the awful moments of death so mildly, that although five persons were present, and observing him, not one of them perceived him to expire: but he had ceased to breathe about five minutes before five in the afternoon:

"Cold the soft hand, that soothed wo's
weary head!
And quenched the eye, the pitying tear
that shed!

And mute the voice, whose pleasing accents stole,
Infusing balm, into the rankled soul!"

BEATTIE.

On saturday, the 3d of May, 1800, he was buried in a part of Dereham church, called St. Edmund's chapel. A monument was erected to his memory with the following inscription:

IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM COWPER, ESQ.

Born in Hertfordshire 1731.

Buried in this Church, 1800.

Ye, who with warmth the public triumph feel

Of talents, dignified by sacred zeal;
Here, to Devotion's Bard devoutly just,
Pay your fond tribute due to Cowper's dust!

England, exulting in his spotless fame,
Ranks with her dearest sons his favourite name:

Sense, fancy, wit, suffice not all to raise
So clear a title to affection's praise;
His highest honours to the heart belong;
His virtues formed the magic of his song.

The person and mind of Cowper seems to have been formed with equal kindness by nature, and it may be questioned if she ever bestowed on any man with a fonder prodigality all the requisites to conciliate affection, and to inspire respect. He had an air of pensive reserve in his deportment, and his extreme shyness sometimes produced in his manners an indescribable mixture of awkwardness and dignity; towards females in particular, his behaviour and conversation were delicate and fascinating to a high degree. As a sufferer, no man could be more entitled to compassion, for no man could be more truly compassionate, and feeling for the sufferings of others.

His daily study, and his whole domestic life, is minutely and agreeably delineated in his letters to his friends, which show him in a most amiable point of view. In describing the social and friendly faculties of Cowper, it would be unjust not to bestow particular notice on his talent for letter writing—a talent which he possessed to perfection, and one, that friendship ought especially to honour as she is indebted to it for a considerable portion of her most valuable delights. What heart is there so cold,

as not to feel the sincerest pleasure, on hearing from an absent friend? Secluded from the world, as Cowper had long been, he yet retained in advanced life uncommon talents for conversation; and his conversation was distinguished by mild and benevolent pleasantry, by delicate humour peculiar to him-self, or by a higher tone of serious good sense, and those united charms of a cultivated mind, which he very happily described:

"Grave, without dullness; learned, without pride;
Exact, yet not precise; though meek, keen eyed;
Who, when occasion justified its use,
Had wit, as bright as ready to produce."

He was, as his poetry most elegantly testifies, a most ardent friend to liberty, both civil and religious; his love of freedom induced him to animadvert with lively indignation on every oppressive exercise of official or episcopal authority. His predominant desire was to render his poetry an instrument of good to mankind; his love of fame was a secondary passion, and like all his passions, in perfect subjection to the great principles of religious duty, which he made the rule of his life. It is evident, however, that he had a lively, and a proper relish for praise, when justly or affectionately bestowed. The quickness, and niceness of his feelings, were displayed when he saw a newspaper including the speech of the *never to be forgotten Mr. Fox*, in which that accomplished orator, with a liberality worthy his powerful mind, gave new lustre to a splendid passage in the *Task*, by reciting it in parliament. The passage alluded to, contains the beautiful verses on the destruction of the Bastile; verses that

were originally composed in the form of a prophecy. Indulgence and good nature were the Poet's predominant qualities, and their influence was such, that though his extraordinary talents for satire, threw perpetual temptation in his way, he declined the temptation: he chose not to be a satirist, but a monitor; he wisely observed, that the most dignified satirists are little better than mere beadles of Parnassus. To the honour of the Poet it must be observed, that his extreme shyness, did not preclude him from a free and happy use of his mental powers, when he had a prospect of comforting the distressed. His diffidence was wonderfully great, but his humility was greater.

The great pleasure that Cowper felt in the conversation of accomplished women, inspired him with that delicate vivacity, with which he was accustomed to speak when he was not under the influence of his oppressive malady; and he seems to have been peculiarly fortunate in the attachment of his friends at the different periods of his troubled existence. They seemed to vie with each other in their attention to him, he was beloved with an ardour of affection, resembling the friendship of the heroic ages. After the death of Mrs. Unwin's son, who was his favourite friend and companion, he formed a friendship equally strong with his kind and benevolent relation, the Rev. Mr. Johnson, who carefully and affectionately took care of him, in his long and severe afflictions. From affectionation of every kind, Cowper was perpetually preserved by a majestic simplicity of truth, never seduced by false splendour, and most feelingly alive to all the graces of truth.

ORIGINAL POETRY.

TO THE SELF-ESTEEMED WISE;

"Whose narrow hearts and souls confined,
Deride all efforts of the mind."

THE BEE AND THE MOLE,

A FABLE.

A Mole, who never from his birth,
Had passed beyond his native earth;

And blind, beneath its surface still
Knew nothing, but his paunch to fill,
Who deemed his ways perfection quite,
So thought none other could be right,
Addressed a bee, who on a rose
Had stopt a moment to repose.

"You're surely mad, presuming thing,
 Aloft in air to ply the wing,
 And leave the firm substantial ground,
 Where solid joy alone is found;
 Be wise and lay aside those wings,
 Useless, unprofitable things!
 Shut too your eyes, be blind like me,
 What gain can it produce to see?
 What use are eyes I ne'er could think,
 In darkness can't one eat and drink?
 In seeing much to spend one's pains,
 Will only tend to turn the brains;
 Why do you learning's path explore,
 And over mathematics pore,
 To form your complicated cell?
 Can't you like me in caverns dwell?
 I scope a house out in a trice,
 And find it vastly fit and nice;
 Leave then such idle vanity,
 Beneath earth's surface pass with me,
 There plenty reigns to fill the belly,
 The wisest business let me tell you;
 When full, within our cells we'll creep,
 Roll ourselves up, and go to sleep;
 For what is seeing, moving, thinking,
 Compared with eating, sleeping, drinking?
 True wisdom, it is known full well,
 In ease and darkness loves to dwell;
 Then from your former fancies flee,
 And learn to be as wise as me."

Thus spoke the mole with conscious pride,
 And quickly then the bee replied.

"Ignorance, under Wisdom's mask,
 To veil, appears an easy task;
 While those who've neither sense nor spirit,
 Wish this defect to seem a merit;
 With narrow hearts and souls confined,
 Deride all efforts of the mind,
 Those things they can't attain despise,
 And for this trick were thought wise.
 While heads are thick and brains are muddy,

'Tis easier far to rail than study.

Your reasoning's of a curious kind,
 I must be mad because you're blind;
 Your dullness can't my aims conceive,
 I'm therefore wrong, and them should leave;

Your pride is such, while sunk in night
 You think yourself perfection quite,
 Who's over or below your rule
 Must be quite mad, or else a fool;
 Because blind you, can't upwards rise,
 I must not use my wings or eyes.

Your pleasures may be such to you,
 But something higher I'd pursue;
 I grant that sleep, and drink and food,
 In moderation, all are good,
 To keep the body strong and whole,
 The useful servant of the soul;
 But nothing else save these to follow,
 Shows a gross heart, and head quite hollow,

And Nature's order will deprave,

Making the mind the body's slave,
 Your pleasures would be none to me,
 Our tastes, our souls could ne'er agree;
 You're to one element confined,
 All nature's works delight my mind;
 Sometimes aloft in air I go,
 And view her beauties spread below,
 Her scenes of varying delight,
 Formed skilfully to please the sight;
 Sometimes within the balmy rose,
 I nectar sip in sweet repose,
 And while within its bowers I dwell,
 Enchant my sight, my taste, my smell;
 Then bear away my waxen load,
 To form my science-planned abode;
 Thus sense and mind I both employ,
 To bring me ever-varying joy.
 Reptile! to dwell beneath earth's shade,
 And leave those joys you'll ne'er persuade,
 Cease then your purpose to pursue,
 I'd sooner die than live like you."

This said, in air she wing'd her flight,
 The mole sunk down to earth and night.

NEMORENSIS.

LOVE.

FROM THE FRENCH.

*Qui définira cet enfant.**

WHO can describe that child sublime
 Whose birth coeval is with time?
 That tiny form whom all obey
 That tenant earth, or air, or sea;
 Whose eyes in silken fillet seal'd,
 Their form, their lustre unreveal'd,
 Can yet a magic flame impart
 To soften and subdue the heart.

That name ador'd on Cnydian plains,
 And hymn'd in Sappho's Lesbian strains,
 From Nereid voices rising sweet
 Fond echo trembles to repeat;
 Of power to charm dark Pluto's soul,
 The destiny of Jove controul,
 Change to a bull his form divine,
 And teach Alcides flax to twine.

So sweetly vain to yield a grant,
 So softly, scelingly gallant,
 So darkly jealous—brightly true,
 So boldly gay, but modest too,
 Who gives so much, but gives—to gain,
 Who stoops so far, but stoops—to reign,
 And wins the dear contentious field
 By looks that conquer as they yield.

Who first will gentle pity raise,
 Then bless the soul with dulcet praise,
 With frowns like hate despair will move,
 To chace with sweetest looks of love;
 Celestial spirit! shadow vain!
 That tears can nourish, sighs maintain;
 A rose that seeks the sun's bright ray,
 But in the radiance dies away.

Colaraine, Jan. 1, 1810.

REVICAM.

* See the *Belsham Magazine* for October.

SEVENTH DAY NIGHT.*

ADDRESSED TO A FRIEND.

LOV'ST thou at early morn to rove,
Th' enaurell'd mead, the verdant grove,
And hear each warbler's note of love,
By nature taught;
Or when 'neath evening's silent sway,
Thy footsteps brush the dews away,
And 'mid the silver moon-beams stray,
In pensive thought.

There oft may wake poetic fire,
And many a soothing strain inspire,
To melodise the Muse's lyre,

In numbers bright;
But dearer to thy Mary's breast,
Than all the charms by these possess'd,
With pure felicity my guest,
On seventh day night;

For then the toilsome week is o'er,
And business racks the head no more,
Nor echoing raps assail the door,
Nor cares annoy;

Ere gain'd an hour of rest at last,
And by no cloud our sky o'ercast,
We drink oblivion of the past,
And peace enjoy.

Still'd is the unquiet hum of trade,
Its busy haunts are lost in shade,
The office lock'd, the porter paid,
And warehouse clos'd,

We feel as mariners on shore,
Who've just escap'd the tempest's roar,
Dream not of dangers yet in store,
While safe reposed:

Our fire burns bright, our thoughts are free,
And fragrant our repast of tea,
Most cheering when illumin'd by thee,
With smile serene;

Our little darlings round us press,
In haste to urge the fond caress,
Which does a parent's bosom bless,
And crowns the scene.

Perchance they court a longer stay,
And banish slumber far away,
To lengthen out the closing day,
In pleasures bland:

* The numerical mode of denominating the day of the week is adopted in this little specimen of feeling, and neat domestic painting. Seventh day is Saturday, according to the mode practised by the Quakers, and some others who do not profess with them, but who think that by numerical is the best mode of expressing the names of the week, and the months. Nothing short of the indistinguishable sway of custom, and ancient prescription, could reconcile us to denominating time by terms drawn from an exploded superstition, or as in the case of the four last months of the year by an evident misnomer, calling the 9th month, September, which means the 7th, according to the old style. The French in their reformed calendar, which they afterwards capriciously rejected, made some approaches to propriety, but they erred in making the climate of one country, the test for denominating the months. The numerical order would have removed all objections.

Soon tired they sink to calm repose,
Such as no guilty mind e'er knows,
And Sleep his poppies o'er them throws,
With liberal hand.

Oh luxury! not all thy power,
To wile away the tedious hour,
Can o'er the heart such comfort shower,
As scenes like this;
Nor less to-morrow's prospects cheer,
To us its hallowed rest is dear,
And fills our minds with joy sincere,
And hopes of bliss;

For we delight to seek his face,
Whose presence beautifies each place,
And meet with those who meet to trace,
His power divine.
To us the prospect of that day,
When earthly cares and toils give way,
Is lovelier than the potent ray,
Of noon-tide shine:

For as the bow that ever bends,
Its force elastic quickly spends,
Nor swift the darting arrow sends,
To gain the prize,
So he who formed the human mind,
Seasons of rest hath well design'd,
Which give new vigour to mankind,
To mount the skies.

Even as our frame refreshment knows,
Awaking oft from bland repose,
When health in crimson current flows,
And prompts delight;
Then marvel not why I prefer,
To evening walk, or morning air,
This sweet cessation from dull care,
On seventh day night.

Dublin, 1807.

M.C.

SELECT POETRY.

THE CALENDAR OF FLORA.

FAIR rising from her icy couch,
Wan herald of the floral year;
The snow-drop marks the Spring's approach,
Ere the first primrose groups appear!
Or peers the Arum* through its spotted veil,
Or violets scent the cold, capricious gale.

Then thickly strew'd in woodland bowers,
Anemonies their stars unfold;
Then spring the sorrel's veined flowers;—
And rich in vegetable gold,
From calyx pale the freckled cowslip born,
Receives in jasper cups the fragrant dews of morn.

* Jack in the pulpit.

Lo! the green thorn her silver buds,
 Expands to Maia's genial beam;—
 Hottonia* blushes on the flood;
 And where the slowly trickling stream
 Through grass, and spiry rushes glides
 Her lovely fringed flowers fair Menyanthes† hides.

In the lone copse or shadowy dale,
 Wild clustering knots of hare-bells
 blow;

And droops the lily of the vale,
 O'er vinca's‡ matted leaves below;—
 The Orches race with varied beauty
 charm,

And mock the exploring bee, or fly's
 aerial form.

Wound o'er the hedge-row's oaken boughs
 The woodbine's tassels float in air;
 And blushing, the uncultur'd rose
 Hangs high her beauteous blossoms
 there;

Her fillets there the purple Nightshade
 weaves,

And pale Brionia winds her broad and
 scollop'd leaves.

To later summer's fragrant breath,
 Clematis's|| feathery garlands dance;
 The hollow fox-glove nods beneath,
 While tall Mullein's yellow lance,

* Water-violet....† Buck bean.

‡ Periwinkle.....|| Virgin's bower.

(Dear to the mealy tribe of evening) towers
 And the weak Galium* weaves her
 myriad tiny flowers.

Sheltering the coot's or wild-duck's nest,
 And where the timid Hareleyon hides,
 The Willow-herb in crimson dress,
 Waves with Arundo† o'er the tides:
 And there the bright Nymphaea‡ loves
 to lave,
 And spreads her golden orbs along the
 dimpling wave.

And thou! by pain and sorrow blest
 Papaver] that an opiate dew
 Conceals't beneath thy crimson vest
 Contrasting with Cyanus§ blue,
 The autumnal months behold thy gandy
 leaves,
 Bend in the rustling gale amid the tawny
 sheaves,

From the first bud whose vent'rous
 head

The winter's lingering tempest braves,
 To those which 'mid the foliage dead,
 Shrink latest to their annual graves;
 All are for use, for health, for pleasure
 given,

All speak in various ways the bounteous
 hand of Heaven!

* Lady's bed straw.....† Reed grass.

‡ Water lily.....|| Poppy.....§ Blue bottle.

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DISCOVERIES AND IMPROVEMENTS IN ARTS, MANUFACTURES, &c.

Patent of Mr. John Davenport, of Langport, Staffordshire, Glass-maker, for a method of ornamenting all kinds of Glass, in imitation of engraving or etching.

Dated July, 1806.

THE invention, for which this patent is taken, is applied besides the purposes mentioned in the title, to form a rough surface on glass designed for window blinds in a cheaper and better manner than by grinding; this being the simplest application of it, is preferred to begin the description of the process.

The principle of the invention consists in the application of a coat of powdered glass to the surface of common glass, mixed with ingredients that enable it to adhere, and increase its fusibility, so that a heat below that required for melting the articles to which it is applied, will sufficiently soften it so as to make it unite firmly to them, without losing the roughness of its surface.

The process by which this coating is made to produce various figures, consists in tracing on it by graving tools, and other instruments, such devices as are desired, before the heat is applied, and while it only adheres by the tenacity of some of the ingredients mixed with it. "By this means, borders, cyphers, coats of arms,

drawings, and the most elaborate designs, may be executed in a stile of elegance, equal, if not superior to any hitherto known," and at a much cheaper rate, than by the tedious and hazardous operations of the Glass-cutter's wheels.

The mixture of the coating, which Mr. Davenport recommends, is to consist of equal parts of the three following compositions prepared as will be directed.

No. 1, is composed of 160 parts of broken flint glass (called by glass blowers cullitt) 10 parts of pearl-ashes, 40 parts of red lead, and 10 parts of Arsenic.

No. 2, consists of 120 parts of cullitt, or broken glass, 160 parts of red lead, 60 parts of sand, or silex, and 60 parts borax.

No. 3, is formed by 70 parts of red lead, 22½ parts of sand, or silex, and 40 parts of calcined borax.

Each of these compositions are to be fused separately. And then equal parts of them are to be taken and ground into an impalpable powder, and to be mixed with materials proper for coating the glass, to be afterwards mentioned.

Litharge may be used instead of red lead, and other proportions of the above ingredients, or others of a like quality may be used; or they may

be compounded in one mixture, instead of three; but Mr. Davenport produced the most beautiful specimens by the mode described.

This glass may be levigated in any of the usual modes, provided no injurious substance is introduced among it, and that it is reduced to the utmost degree of fineness; but for this purpose the patentee prefers using a small mill, with a pan, the bottom and sides of which are strong glass, with a grinder, or levigator, cast also of solid glass, to work in it.

When the glass is sufficiently levigated, it is to be mixed up with a composition, in order to apply it to the articles to be coated, consisting of one part of double refined sugar, dissolved in two parts of pure water; to which is added, at the time of putting in the powder, about one third part of common writing ink, or of a watery solution of calcined copperas.

The effect of adding the latter substances, the patentee supposes to be similar to that produced by the oxide of manganese, used in a small quantity by the glass-makers in making their best flint glass; because without this addition he has found, that the specimens had more of a cloudy or milky appearance (similar to that called by the workmen in the glass-house *shuppy metal*) and which quality it is understood, the manganese tends to destroy.

The use of the sugar is to make the coating adhere to the articles, in which it is superior to gum, from affording more facility to the operation of etching, or engraving, in the first instance; and the increase of this facility which may be procured by merely breathing on the part operated on, which makes it soft and pliable to the tool; while the parts not breathed on remain fast as before.

Enough of the fluid composition is to be added to the levigated glass, to render it of a proper consistence for laying on with a very thin and even surface. As the coating mixture becomes dry in working, it is to be moistened occasionally, with solution of sugar.

The coating is to be laid on with a brush of camel's or squirrel's hair,

the most convenient form for which it is to have its points spread out so as to form a segment of a circle.

After the coating is applied, any design intended is to be formed on it, by engraving, or working out from its surface by pointed instruments, such parts as are necessary to produce the proposed effect.

The glass, when thus engraved, and the plates coated plain, intended for window blinds, are to be exposed to a heat sufficient to produce a semi-vitrification of the coated surface, and to incorporate it sufficiently with the substance of the glass articles so coated. But great care must be taken not to extend the degree of heat farther than is necessary for these purposes, because in that case a complete vitrification of the coating would ensue, whereby the desired effect, of having a surface in imitation of the rough surface produced by grinding, would not be obtained.

This invention is not only applicable to all kinds of useful and ornamental articles of glass-ware whereon the common methods of glass-cutting and engraving have been practised but may be applied to window and plate glass, both in place of grinding, to make window blinds, and also to produce various devices on windows for altar pieces, libraries, museums, coach windows, and all other purposes, wherein plate glass and window glass have been commonly used.

This has also the advantage over the common method, of wearing much cleaner; for the surface of ground glass being somewhat fractured by the action of the wheel, is liable to gather dirt on the rough unpolished parts of the borders, or designs executed in the common manner.

Remarks.... This invention has much ingenuity and novelty to recommend it, and seems capable both of great improvement for the purposes mentioned, and of farther extension to others: particularly to make engravings for impressing designs on paper in the place of copper plate. It is possible also that copper or other metallic plates might be coated and

engraved in a similar manner for forming designs for the press. These plates would be more durable than glass for this use; and the design would be formed on the coating with much more facility, than by cutting or engraving the metal itself, in the usual manner. When glass plates were used for this purpose they might be strengthened by cementing metallic plates beneath them.

Patent of Mr. John Bradbury of Navan, County Meath, cotton spinner, for a method of spinning cotton, flax, and wool.

Dated Dec. 1807.

Mr. Bradbury's invention relates solely to some alterations in the spindle and fly, from which he asserts considerable advantages will arise.

The fly is placed in a reversed position on the spindle with its extremities upwards, and is fastened to a wharve, or pulley, which traverses on the spindle, and receives its motion from a drum separate from, and larger than that, which turns the spindle, the bobbin is sustained by the upper part of the spindle, which is turned smaller than the rest, so as to form a shoulder by which the bobbin is supported,

The traversing motion is effected by the rising and falling of the rail supporting the fly, or of that supporting the spindle.

The draught, or winding up of the thread, arises from the friction of the inside of the bobbin, against the small part of the spindle, and of its bottom against the shoulder of the spindle. This draught is regulated by increasing or diminishing the size of the wharve, or of the drum, which turns the spindle, by which the spindle moves slower or quicker than the fly, or remains stationary, as the quality of the thread requires. The spindle is placed in a vertical position, as being preferable to an horizontal, or oblique one.

The following advantages are stated by Mr. Bradbury, to arise from this arrangement. First, the fly, which moves distinct from the spindle, is the only part kept in rapid motion, in this method, by which there is a

saving of the force consumed in giving the same rapid motion to the spindles in the common method.

Secondly, from the same circumstance of the fly moving distinct from the spindle, the draught of the thread to the bobbin can be regulated to the utmost exactness. And, when once regulated, will remain invariably the same at whatever speed the machine shall turn; whereas in the old mode a variation of speed produces a variation of draught, which breaks the thread, and causes much waste.

Thirdly, on account of the inverted position of the fly, the bobbin can be taken off and put on with expedition; whilst in the old plan it was necessary to stop the spindle, and unscrew the fly from the top, or to take out the spindle. By these improvements the quantity of yarn produced by each spindle is nearly double to that, by the old plan, of any degree of fineness required with the same power.

Remarks.... The quantity of motion saved, for a single spindle in this method may seem inconsiderable, yet in a large factory it would amount to a considerable sum, and enable the first mover to perform more work in a proportional quantity. Thus a steam engine, or a water wheel, capable of working two thousand spindles in the common plan, might in Mr. Bradbury's work 2,250 or more. The facility of taking off the bobbin has an advantage, not mentioned by Mr. Bradbury, in saving wear and tear of the machinery which must more or less occur in the old method in unscrewing and screwing on again the flies, as frequently as is required in shifting the bobbins.

The modes of regulating the proportional speed of the fly to that of the bobbin to so great a nicety, must also be of considerable importance, particularly for fine work, in which waste is more injurious.

We are informed by a skilful cotton manufacturer, that he has seen this arrangement of the fly and spindle, several years before the date of this patent.

Patent of Mr. Frederick Bartholomew Folsch, of Oxford street, for improvements on instruments, and pens to facilitate writing.

Dated May, 1809.

Mr. Folsch's instrument for writing, is a fountain pen improved chiefly by the addition of a valve at the top; by pressing down which a small quantity of air is admitted on the enclosed ink, so as to let it descend as required.

The ink is contained in a tube about the usual dimensions, closed at top by a short tube, containing the valve which screws down into it. The valve is formed by a button covered with leather, which closes an aperture at the bottom of the short tube, and from which a shank rises upwards to a little sliding piece at the top, that is pressed upwards, so as to keep the valve closed, by a spiral spring, coiled round the shank, one end of which presses against the bottom of the short tube, and the other end against the little sliding piece; by pressing down which the valve is opened, and the air admitted; and on withdrawing the pressure, the re-action of the spring shuts the valve again.

The pen part of this instrument, differs from other metallic pens, in having a flat piece soldered on in front, all the way down to the commencement of the nib, whence it proceeds downwards detached to within a very small distance of the point, a hole is made in its upper part to admit air. Its use is to contain a greater quantity of ink close to the nib, and to prevent its flowing too freely from it. From the bottom of the large tube, a very small one (about the thirtieth of an inch in diameter) proceeds downwards about half way to the point.

This lower, or pen part, is made so as to be separated from the rest occasionally to clean it.

In some of Mr. Folsch's pens, instead of the valve, the top of the large tube is closed by a screw, in which a small hole is drilled upwards, to meet another horizontal one in the side a little way down. The air is admitted through these apertures, by turning round the screw backwards a little way.

The other variations in Mr. Folsch's writing instruments consist principally in different arrangements of the pen part, which are too minute to admit of description without drawings.

Remarks... These pens seem very superior in their construction to common fountain pens, and would be found very serviceable to those who were much pressed in time when writing. It is not, however, likely that the metallic pens, which terminate them, will be found equally pleasant to write with as pens made of quills; the peculiar elasticity of which no art has yet been able to imitate effectually in metal.

On the use of violet pickle as a re-agent; and on the utility of salting vegetables intended for distillation, by M. Descroizilles, sen.

Annuaire de Chimie.

The re-agent most usually employed for determining the presence of acids, uncombined alkalis, and alkaline carbonats, is syrop of violets. This re-agent, is, however, subject to several inconveniences. If it be exposed to a rather warm temperature, it ferments; the cork of the bottle flies out; a part of the syrop runs over, and the rest after being reddened more or less by the carbonic acid that is formed, dries up into a mass of small crystals. It very frequently happens that flies and other insects, being attracted towards it, are drowned in it, putrify, and alter the syrop. It was therefore conceived that a pickle of violets might be substituted for it; and it answered upon trial. The following is the mode of preparing it.

Pour upon the petals of violets, which have been slightly squeezed into a very small pewter measure; double their weight of boiling water, cover the vessel, and expose it for some hours to a heat rather superior to that of baths, and then pass the water through a very clean cloth squeezing it strongly. Afterwards weigh the infusion very exactly, and add to it the third part of its weight of common salt. The finest white salt is to be preferred, because it contains little or no muriate with an earthy base, which might effect the colour. This pickle is of a fine deep

violet blue, and being kept in a corked bottle, it may be kept without any alteration, although it is exposed to different temperatures, and even to the rays of the sun: as a re-agent it is preferable to the best syrup of violets, 100 parts of the syrup contain 66 of sugar, which frequently contains lime; in 100 parts of the pickle there are only 25 of salt. There is some reason to suppose that several other blue flowers, such as those of flag, larkspur, &c. would also yield a pickle of sufficient accuracy: the latter indeed has been tried with complete success.

In order to use this blue pickle, the end of a small splinter, or a broken match is dipped in it, and then applied to a plate. By repeating this manœuvre the middle of a plate will hold thirty spots for trial, each of which does not consume a quarter of a drop, so that a few decigramms of this pickle will serve to make numerous experiments in the course of the year.

2d Part....It appears that in general the usefulness of applying common salt to preserve those vegetables, which are brought from a distance, for the use of apothecaries or perfumers, has not been sufficiently appreciated. Hilaire Marin Rouelle, under whom the author was educated, perfumed his laboratory, during the whole of a course of chemistry in the winter of 1775, by distilling the roses he had salted in the preceding June. The rose water that he obtained from them formed, by the addition of a little sugar and alcohol, a very pleasant liquor. A vessel filled with salted roses has been kept for the last three years in the author's laboratory, the perfume of these roses has not lost any of its agreeableness or of its strength. The salting was performed in the following manner.

Take a chiliogramme and a half (3 lb.) of roses, rub them for two or three minutes with half a chiliogramme (1 lb.) of salt. The flowers being bruised by the friction of the grains of the salt, yield their juice, so that there is immediately formed a kind of paste that is not very bulky; and this is to be put by in an earthen jar, or in a barrel, until it is filled,

by repeating the same process, by which means all the roses will be equally salted in a proper manner. The vessel is then to be shut up and kept in a cool place, until it is wanted.

When it is desired, at any leisure time, to begin the distillation, this aromatic paste is to be put into the body of the still along with twice its weight of water. By this means there is no occasion to be hurried by the season, nor to pay any attention to the distance, as a person at Paris may distil during the winter, the aromatic vegetables, which were salted, a long time before in the provinces most distant from the capital.

According to some observers the distilled waters obtained in this way are much more agreeable, than the common, and nevertheless they yield more essential oil. It may however be affirmed, that these saltings may be applied to some very useful purposes; for example, if it be true that the distilled waters of some plants cannot be preserved from one year to another, notwithstanding they were prepared with every possible attention, it is equally certain, that these plants being well salted, need only be distilled when wanted, and may thus be used while all their medical virtues are in perfection.

INVENTIONS BY MR. R. TREVITHICK, RELATIVE TO NAUTICAL AFFAIRS.

1st. *Account of a wrought Iron moveable Caisson, with a Rudder, for docking a ship, while riding at her moorings, without removing stores or masts.*

This floating dock is made of wrought iron, half an inch thick, 210 feet long, 54 feet wide, and 30 feet deep, and will weigh about 400 tons; with a flanch six feet wide at the top, for the workmen to stand on, and to strengthen the caisson.

The weight of this caisson, when immersed in water, is nearly 350 tons; but for reasons, mentioned below, it is rendered nearly buoyant by an air receptacle, which surrounds it, and is capable of sustaining the whole weight with great exactness, and which is riveted to the caisson, in such a manner as to strengthen it, and support the principal props from the ship.

This caisson draws nine feet water; when taken to the ship intended to be docked, the water is to be let in to it at an opening or plug-hole at the bottom, and it is suffered to sink till the upper part of it is even with the surface of the water the air receptacle still keeping it buoyant. A small quantity of air is then to be discharged by opening a plug-hole in the air-receptacle, until a quantity of water is let in, just sufficient to sink the caisson, which is then to be drawn under the ship's bottom. This being effected, the caisson (nearly buoyant) is then to be raised to the surface of the water by ropes made fast from it to each quarter of the ship. A pump placed within the caisson and worked by a steam engine of a twelve horse power, placed in a barge alongside, will empty it in 3 hours, and reduce the ship's draught of water 8 feet; that is from 26 to 18 feet, (the caisson floating with a draft of 18 feet, while the ship floats with one of 26 feet.) She may then be carried into shoal water, if required, or alongside wharfs, or the jetty heads of the Dock-yards.

The ship's sides and bottom tending to fall outwards, by their own weight, and the sides and bottom of the caisson tending to be forced inwards by the external pressure of the water; it is obvious that by placing props or shores between them, both will be supported; while the ship will lie with all her stores on board, and masts standing nearly as easy as when floating in the water.

Should inconvenience be apprehended at any time from blowing weather, the caisson may be cast off, and let fall to the bottom, where it cannot be injured, and from whence it may be raised to the ship's bottom again at pleasure, with as little trouble as weighing an anchor.

The upper part of this floating dock will be 12 feet above water, when there is a first rate ship in it; this is a sufficient height to prevent the sea from breaking over.

By this means a ship may have her bottom examined and be out again in 6 hours; without coming above the Nore, and without undergoing the tedious process of unshipping and re-

shipping her stores, or waiting for spring tides or a fair wind, to enable her to reach to, or return from dock; which on an average now requires three months, accompanied with an expense of nearly £10,000 per month in wages, subsistence, &c. &c.

This plan may be practised in all countries, and must be particularly advantageous where there are no dry docks, or flowing tide.

Ships on many foreign stations, when requiring to be docked, are now obliged to be sent home, at a great expense of money, and waste of time, others being sent to replace them. This may be avoided in future. Iron Docks may be sent out from England in pieces of five or six tons, with the necessary rivets and bolts, ready to be put together whenever wanted.

A caisson capable of docking a first rate ship will not cost above nineteen or twenty thousand pounds (for merchantmen and smaller ships, the size and cost will be proportionally less). And judging from the duration of wrought-iron salt-pans, will last twenty years without repair. When worn out it may be broken up, and will sell for one third of its original cost.

By adapting caissons to local circumstances, ships of war and merchantmen with all their stores and cargoes on board, can be carried to wharfs and storehouses, up rivers, where the depth of water is not above one half of the ship's draught. For example, in the river Clyde, the ships may be carried to Glasgow, instead of being obliged to unload twenty miles lower down the river.

2d. *New System for Towing Ships; Floating Docks or Caissons.*

The employment of Steam Engines (for impelling vessels) has no novelty: but however competent this agent is in other respects, it has generally failed in this branch of its application, not from its own incompetency, but from a defect in the communication required between the power and the water, upon which it is destined to act; and from not considering that a power, insufficient to move a vessel with others in tow, may be sufficient to move them alternately, that is to say, first the vessel containing

the engine, and then, by the communicating rope, the vessels which the first-mentioned vessel has to move.

A steam-engine of fifty tons weight on board a barge or ship, will tow with much greater power and effect, while only impelling a vessel forward by the action of the engine against the water, than a thousand men can do with sweeps. But if the same engine is applied to wind up a rope made fast to buoys, anchors or any other fixture, the power can be increased to any extent, at the expense of a loss of time nearly equal to the effect gained.

Many of the harbours in England are so situated, that the same wind which blows directly into the mouth of the harbour, is fair for going to sea. By placing buoys at about 400 yards from each other, this difficulty may be overcome with an engine of the above description, and men-of-war and transports might be towed out clear of the harbour in a short time.

This may be effected in the following simple manner. The steam engine will drive itself in the barge to the first buoy, where it will be made fast, at the same time paying out about 400 yards of tow rope, or less, as the case may require, one end being fast to the ship to be taken in tow, the other being fastened to a capstan, to be moved round by the power of the engine. This movement brings the ship up to the first buoy, where it is made fast, when the engine with the barge proceeds again to the next buoy, and so on, until the ship or ships in tow arrive at the outer buoy. In situations where there are no buoys, anchors may be dropped, and speedily weighed again, by means of the steam engine: but it is only in extreme cases that this routine is necessary. Generally the power of the engine will be found quite sufficient.

An apparatus of this kind will be useful in towing ships into action in light winds, in bringing off disabled vessels, also in propelling fire ships, against wind and tide after their crews have abandoned them; while by the same contrivance the look-out ships of a squadron, or packet-boats, will be enabled to enter or leave a harbour in spite of wind or tide.

Remarks....Two objections appear principally against the iron caissons. The first is the great expence; the £20,000 mentioned would build a graving dock in many situations, which would answer all the essential purposes of the caisson, and last ten times as long; and few would like to risk so large a sum without more certainty of advantage than what these caissons promise. The other objection to them arises from the danger of their adhering to the bottom when sunk. On muddy or sandy bottoms, it is well known that sunk ships adhere with a force vastly greater than their weight, and some of the few successful attempts which have been made in raising such vessels, have been owing to a due attention to this circumstance.

This adhesion arises from the water being forced out from between the vessel and the bottom; which causes the whole pressure of the superincumbent water to act in keeping it down; in the same manner as the pressure of the atmosphere acts in preventing the separation of two exhausted hemispheres in the well-known pneumatic experiment. If then the caisson lay in the bottom it would be subject to this accident as well as any other vessel: and the projector would find himself entirely mistaken in supposing it could be raised as easy as an anchor, as he has asserted. This evil might however be guarded against by proper management; so that the objection is not insuperable: floats or barges might for this purpose be attached to the caisson above, so as to prevent its sinking above 30 feet, or the depth requisite for admitting the vessel.

The plan of moving vessels by steam, deserves serious attention for several other purposes besides those mentioned. Two or more of this kind should be always stationed in time of war at Holyhead or Portpatrick, and the opposite ports; had some plan of this kind been adopted previous to the time, when the French fleet lay so long in Bantry-bay, the whole of it might then have been taken; for though the wind was such as to prevent vessels sailing to England during that period, it was perfectly fair for

the English fleet to have blocked up the French fleet in the harbour, if intelligence could have been sent over in time.

To bring this plan to perfection experiments must be tried that require much time, and will be very expensive, if not conducted with great caution. From some experiments tried by the writer on modes of impelling boats, which might be adapted to a steam engine apparatus, he is inclined to think that the floats, or parts that strike the water, have been made much too large hitherto. In apparatus of this nature, the effect of which is to give motion to the water instead of to the vessel; as unless the floats move with a certain velocity through the water (which must depend on the ratio of their size to the impelling power) the resistance of the water, which is nearly as the squares of the velocity, will not be sufficiently great to cause the greatest re-action for the force used.

Oblique action is preferable also for this purpose to direct, in which the motion of the vessel takes off an equal quantity from that of the impelling surfaces. And it is to be observed that fishes move themselves in this manner; their tails which are their impelling instruments, always acting as inclined planes on the water, and with an oblique impulse.

A short Account of Mr. Davy's latest Experiments on Nitrogen, the Metals of the Earths, and Alkalies, &c.

In the third section of the Bakerian lecture, Mr. Davy detailed a number of laborious and minute experiments on the circumstances under

which nitrous acid, and ammonia are produced. He showed that nitrogene is not formed by the electrization of pure water, and that in most of these cases in which it appears, it pre-exists in some compound, employed in the process. The facts in favour of the composition of nitrogene are those derived from the electrical experiments, upon the amalgamation of ammonia, and those derived from the action of potassium upon the same alkali. Mr. Davy brought forward various new facts and reasonings in support of the opinion that ammonia is an oxide.

In the fourth section several experiments upon the earths are detailed. Mr. Davy has succeeded in decomposing silex, alumen, and glucine, by means of potassium and iron, and has obtained amalgams of the metals of magnesia and lime by mere chemical agency. Potassium is sent in vapour through the earths ignited to whiteness, and Mercury is passed into the tube which unites to the new metals.

In the fifth section, Mr. Davy compares the antiphlogistic hypotheses of the nature of metallic bodies, with a modified phlogistic hypothesis, that they may be components of unknown bases with hydrogen, and he states that the decision upon these important points of doctrine, cannot be made, till perfectly correct notions upon the nature of ammonia, nitrogene, and hydrogen, are acquired.

Among other combinations before unknown, which Mr. Davy describes in this lecture, is a new inflammable gas, composed of the boracic basis and hydrogen.

ANECDOTES OF LEARNED MEN.

POVERTY OF THE LEARNED.

FORTUNE has rarely condescended to be the companion of merit. Even in these enlightened times, men of letters have lived in obscurity, while their reputation was widely spread; and have perished in poverty, while their works were enriching the booksellers.

Homer, poor and blind, resorted to

the public places to recite his verses for a morsel of bread.

The facetious poet, Plautus, gained a livelihood by assisting a miller.

Xylander sold his Notes on Dion Cassius for a dinner. He tells us, that at the age of eighteen he studied to acquire glory, but at twenty-five he studied to get bread. oogLe

Aldus Manutius was so wretchedly poor, that the expense of removing his library from Venice to Rome made him insolvent.

To mention those who left nothing behind them to satisfy the undertaker, were an endless task.

Agrippa died in a work-house; Cervantes is supposed to have died of hunger; Camoens was deprived of the necessaries of life, and is believed to have perished in the streets.

The great Tasso was reduced to such a dilemma, that he was obliged to borrow a crown from a friend to subsist through the week. He alludes to his distress in a pretty Sonnet, which he addresses to his cat, entreating her to assist him, during the night, with the lustre of her eyes—

"Non avendo candele per iscrivere i suoi versi!"

having no candle by which he could see to write his verses!

Ariosto bitterly complains of poverty in his Satires: when at length the liberality of Alphonso enabled him to build a small house, it was most miserably furnished! When he was told that such a building was not fit for one who had raised so many fine palaces in his writings, he answered, that the structure of words and that of stones was not the same thing. The reader may be pleased to have his own expressions—" *Che porrei le pietre, e porrei le parole non è il medesimo.*"

The illustrious Cardinal Bentivoglio, the ornament of Italy and of literature, languished, in his old age, in the most distressful poverty; and, having sold his palace to satisfy his creditors, left nothing behind him but his reputation.

Le Sage resided in a little cottage on the borders of Paris, and while he supplied the world with their most agreeable romances, never knew what it was to possess any moderate degree of comfort in pecuniary matters.

De Ryer, a celebrated French poet, was constrained to labour with rigour, and to live in the cottage of an obscure village. His bookseller bought his heroic verses for one hundred sols the hundred lines, and the smaller ones for fifty sols.

Dryden, for less than three hundred

pounds, sold Tonson two thousand verses, as may be seen by the agreement which has been published.

Purchas, who in the reign of our first James, had spent his life in travels and study to form his *Relation of the World*; when he gave it to the public, for the reward of his labour, was thrown into prison, at the suit of his printer.

John Stow quitted the occupation of a taylor for that of an antiquarian; but his studies placing him in embarrassed circumstances, he acted wisely in resuming the shears.

Spencer, that amiable poet, languished out his life in misery. He died in want of bread!

Savage, in the pressing hour of distress, sold that eccentric poem, *The Wanderer*, which had occupied him several years, for ten pounds!

Even our great Milton, sold his immortal work for ten pounds to a bookseller, being too poor to undertake the printing it on his own account; and Otway, and Butler, and Chatterton it is sufficient to name. The latter while he supplied a number of monthly Magazines with their chief materials, found "a penny tart a luxury;" and a luxury it was to him who could not always get bread to his water!

Samuel Boyce, whose Poem on Creation ranks high in the poetic scale, was absolutely famished to death; and was found dead in a garret, with a blanket thrown over his shoulders, fastened by a skewer, with a pen in his hand.

Simon Ockley, a most learned scholar, in Oriental literature, addresses a letter to the Earl of Oxford, in which he paints his distresses in colours not less just than they are glowing. After having devoted his life to Asiatic researches, then not less uncommon than they were valuable, he had the satisfaction of dating his preface to his great work from Cambridge-castle, where he was confined for debt; and he does this with an air of triumph, as a martyr feels enthusiasm in the cause for which he perishes.

Grotius in his confinement, wrote his *Commentary on Saint Matthew*, with other works.

Curios. of Literature.

MONTHLY RETROSPECT OF POLITICS.

WE have now entered upon the seventeenth year of a war, which in all that time has been interrupted only by a truce of a few months. This continued warfare, unexampled in the annals of our country, during which our men are turned old, and our youth grown up to manhood, seems to have changed the natural aspirations after a peaceful state of society, if not into an actual vindication of the misery brought on multitudes of our fellow creatures thereby, at least into a tacit approval of their measures, who profit by this destructive system. There are many whose ideas have been so habituated to hostility, that they cannot contemplate the probability of a stop being put to it, without the most fearful apprehensions; some from the mere dread and dastardly fear of the disproportioned power of our enemy, while others more culpable, dread the cessation of external pressure as a signal for the people to remember their almost forgotten rights, and the necessity of steps being then taken to alleviate their burthens, and promote the internal happiness and prosperity of the country. The former are to be pitied, for courage is constitutional, and not dependent on an act of the will; but the latter are not equal objects of tenderness, for they have allowed the justest sentiments of the mind and the best affections of the heart to be perverted by motives hostile to the real interests of society.

We have often endeavoured in our sphere to recal men's minds to peaceful habits, by showing the folly of waging an eternal war for no object, or for an object which can never be attained; and Europe is now fast approaching that state when this subject will demand the most serious consideration. It is not too much to suppose that before the end of one year, Bonaparte will have conquered all opposition on the Continent, and that from the Euxine, round to the Baltic and Frozen Ocean, his genius will inform and direct the whole against our means, and our existence. Even before a soldier had passed the Pyrennees, after the ter-

mination of his *Austrian expedition*, the Spanish armies were already destroyed, the English retired to Portugal, and Gerona, their strongest and best defended fortress, had fallen. It would be visionary after this to think that Spain could make an effectual stand against the force by which she will be speedily assailed, or that we could defend Portugal in despite of nature and the *inhabitants*. Were the brave Tyrolians fighting for freedom instead of Francis, the Swiss and the other mountain districts might readily have caught the flame, and Hoeder, like another Tell, have new-founded the liberties of his country; but, as in the case of Spain, when they applied for English aid, we confined in place of expanding their views, and the cold sympathy which they experience from their neighbours proves the short-sightedness of our policy, and prognosticates their speedy subjugation by the French and Bavarian arms.

The Ottoman empire still exists, but tottering to its foundation, and the descendants of Mahomet and Solyman only wait the active interference of Bonaparte, to resume the original obscurity of their race, and become the Chiefs of a barbarous and insignificant horde.

The pacification of the north of Europe is now completed, and if Sweden be permitted to remain without becoming actually hostile, we must still expect her co-operation in every measure that can be devised for hampering and restraining our commerce. In this quarter of the world, the political horizon does not appear to brighten; and in America the difference which we announced as having taken place between that government and Mr. Jackson, has produced a spirit unfriendly to conciliation, and may turn the dispute, which we once hoped was so happily settled, into a cause of rupture between the countries.*

* A bill has been brought into Congress, read a second time, with little doubt of its being passed into a law, for effectually
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We are sorry to notice a serious misunderstanding subsisting in India betwixt the governor in council of Madrass and the army of that presidency, which seems to have originated in some attempt or proposal for the correction of abuses. We are not possessed of sufficient information to ascertain the extent of the evil, the truth of the irregularity complained of, or the prudence of the means employed to remove it, but we may observe two things from this disagreeable occurrence, which have been confirmed by the experience of all ages and countries; that those who profit by abuses would put all to hazard rather than relinquish them, and that large standing armies are *always* dangerous. If they are in a high state of discipline, which may be said of them, in proportion as they approach the nature of machines, having no internal principle of action, but guided entirely by external impulse; the commander in chief by gaining their affection and enforcing his authority might overturn the government; if their discipline is on a lower scale, and they conceive themselves entitled to act as a deliberative body, their obedience will then be uncertain, as their conduct must depend on the opinion which they entertain of the orders given for their government †.

These serious and increasing difficulties would press heavily on the country, even were its affairs conducted by the best abilities in the kingdom, and the people unanimous in their determination to support the government, from a confidence that all its measures were calculated for their advantage. This national confidence is desirable, though perhaps

prohibiting all commercial intercourse between the United States, and Great Britain, France, and their dependencies, *unless* in vessels owned wholly by Citizens of the former country. This, we think, will bring the matter in debate, to a speedy issue.

† It appears by recent accounts from India, that part of the troops having openly mutinied and commenced an attack on some other part of the army, were cut to pieces and that the rest of the disaffected had disagreed among themselves, and submitted to government.

not *absolutely necessary* in quiet and ordinary times; but now when kingdoms and governments are assailed by modes as powerful and dangerous as they are unusual and remarkable, they require supports adequate to the predicament in which they are continually liable to be placed. The principal of these supports is surely unanimity in the determination to maintain the blessings of a good constitution and form of government against all enemies; and when the country is menaced from without, pains should be taken to make the people *feel* that they possess these blessings; or it will be vain to look to them for a determination to support what they do not believe they possess. These are not times for experimenting on the patience, or trifling with the feelings of individuals, and far less should a whole nation be insulted by placing it without the pale of the constitution, and a numerous class of its inhabitants farther bribed to discontent by impolitic and invidious restraints from which the rest of their fellow citizens are free. We are decidedly hostile to the introduction of irrelevant matter into public discussions for the mere purpose of irritation; however when grievances exist it is a duty to state them, and loudly demand redress; that when the day of trial arrives there may be no halting between two opinions, but all be united in defence of their just rights, and in the full determination to transmit them unimpaired to posterity.

ENGLAND.

THE LIBERTY OF THE PRESS is an invaluable privilege and one of the firmest supporters of freedom. But it may be abused; and the press by intimidation, or venality may be brought over to be a powerful auxiliary on the side of power, and such in a great degree appears to be its present state. Intimidation was effectually applied towards those connected with the Press, who were known to be advocates of the rights of free discussion. A bookseller in London of well known liberality in his political sentiments was a few years ago, imprisoned nine months because his clerk, unknown to him, had sold a copy of an obnoxious

pamphlet, while another bookseller of less prominent character expiated his offence of selling the same pamphlet, by an imprisonment of only three weeks. At the present moment the Editor and publisher of the Independent Whig, a London paper, are suffering under a sentence of imprisonment for three years, in distant gaols, removed from each other, and from their families and business. These instances of severity are not lost, and intimidation exerts its powerful sway over the whole tribe of writers and publishers. They have to write and publish with the fear of the Attorney General before their eyes, and to exert all the ingenuity they possess to express themselves so guardedly as to keep out of the reach of the inuendoes of the law.

Liberty suffers also from the venality of the press. We shall extract the following description of the press in London, borrowed from one of their periodical publications for last month. "If the people knew generally, that one half of what they read, in newspapers at least, is written purposely to impose on their credulity, and is printed and circulated, *at their expense*, they would turn with equal disgust from the writings of the panegyrists of persons in power, and from those of the defamers of public-spirited individuals:

"Few persons suspect that a majority of the proprietors of the London newspapers, receive regular pensions; that the immediate agents of ministers are the proprietors of some papers; that many of the provincial papers are more or less under the influence of government, or its agents; that the periodical press in general is systematically bought up for the purpose of corrupting public opinion;—and that tens of thousands of pamphlets and squibs in prose and verse, in all manner of shapes, are constantly printed at the expense of men in office, and are distributed gratuitously and post-free, through the nation!—The press is a modern engine in the art of government, and it becomes a question of great importance whether more mischief may not be effected against the rights and interests of a people, by the extensive means

possessed by governments of polluting the sources of public intelligence, than is derived of benefit from the unprotected and misrepresented exertions of individuals, in maintaining the cause of truth and public liberty."

The advocates of liberty have many difficulties to surmount, arising from the apathy of the people, and the strenuous exertions of the trained bands of power; such are the fearful odds against freedom and reform. For how do the people act on this emergency? Many tamely lend their aid to the side of power. They wish to be deceived; and if an independent print is advanced to publish bold, unpalatable truths, it is left unsupported, with a diminished sale, scarcely adequate to pay expenses, and if a prosecution were threatened many would rejoice, and even the few who feebly and timidly hold sentiments of freedom, shut up as in a hidden closet, but who are afraid to avow themselves, would stand by with all the frigid apathy of unconcerned spectators; while some would give a ready ear, as in the case of Wardle, to all the calumnies with which the advocates of power delight to load their opposers.

The supporters of power have all the advantages of acting together in concert, and of being drilled into the ranks of a regular system, while the advocates of reform, suffer from a want of union, each being more desirous to advance his own peculiar system, than to sacrifice to the general good, by promoting unanimity.—Thus disunited, and standing alone, they are ill matched against the regular phalanx. Reform has to encounter, not only the opposition and obloquy of avowed enemies, but also the scarcely less injurious difficulties of timid friends. With some, reform is a mere name, and nothing else, they say they are for reform, but name any specific plan, they immediately draw off, and are fertile in plausible objections: thus manifesting that they only are for reform in word, while in reality they are its determined opponents:

"They reformation much approv'd,
About it never falter'd,

And wish'd all things to be improv'd
But in no little alter'd^d.

In the course of the narration of public events, we have repeatedly alluded to the celebration of the jubilee, and were not backward in our duty in representing it, as we really conceived it to be, a trick to lead away from the consideration of the alarming situation of public affairs. We shall again advert to the subject without fear of tiring our readers, and select for their information from one of the few independent periodical prints, *The Repository of Theology and General Literature*, a review of the manner in which this day was celebrated. If such a review produce reflection, and lessen the cullibility of the public mind, so that the people may not be so liable to be duped on a recurrence of a similar occasion, our pages will not have been uselessly occupied.

"We always considered the late jubilee as a political measure, designed to prop up a falling faction; and therefore hoped that none but political religionists would celebrate it by public worship. The 25th of October was in fact, not a Jewish, nor a Romish, nor a British Jubilee: few, if any, acts of grace, similar to those performed in the 50th year of his reign, by Henry III. and of his age by Edward III. were recommended on this occasion by the King's advisers. The jubilee was wholly intended to divert the public from the consideration of the state of administration and of the country, and it partly answered the purpose; yet there were those who saw, or thought they saw in the mode of the observance of this day of rejoicing, symptoms of good sense and resolution in the public, which would presently break through all the barriers opposed to political inquiry, and demand "indemnity for the past, and security for the future." It was the intention of the projectors of the jubilee to have a general illumination; but this measure appeared, on its being proposed, so ill-suited to the popular feeling, that it was agreed in most places to substitute for it a subscription to the poor. In the metropolis, where the public buildings were

splendidly lighted up, the fears of some of the inhabitants led them to resort to the tallow-chandler, that they might not be put to the necessity of calling in the glazier; but there never was an illumination so partial and spiritless. In one particular, the jubilee was a good day, as it brought a full meal to the mouths of those whom the jubilee-proposers had long doomed, by their measures, to subsist on half a meal; though this loyal charity disclosed the melancholy fact, that nearly a moiety of the population of the country are reduced to a condition, in which the present of a single comfortable dinner, is a gladdening favour. At York, which has a population of 18,000 souls, 8000 applied in *forma pauperis* for the jubilee-charity. At Maidstone, where is a population of 10,000 there were above 3000 who accepted the same relief.

The soldiery were called out to fire *feux de joie*; and some of the commanders of volunteer corps refused leave of absence to the sick of their respective regiments. The merchants and bankers of London, including the whole body of contractors, loan-jobbers, commissioners of excise and of the income tax, and their dependents, held a turtle feast at Merchant Taylor's hall; and the common council of the city of London, were regaled at the Mansion-house, on a plan agreed upon after several hours discussion in the worshipful assembly, with roast beef. The churches were all opened, as were nearly all the Methodist chapels, and the greater part of the meeting-houses. In some of the churches and chapels the pious hymn of "God save the King" was sung, the congregation joining in full chorus. It is said these congregational choirs marked with a peculiar emphasis the elegant, feeling lines, running,

"Confound their politics,
Frustrate their knavish tricks,
And make them fall."

The peaceful and childlike Moravians distinguished the day at the village where they have an establishment, by gay processions, the hoisting of flags, the singing of the above-pamed

Christian stanzas, prayers, sermons, and other demonstrations of loyal joy.

"A number of the inhabitants of Harlow, in Essex, on this day refused subscribing to entertain their poor; they had declared their intention of making a subscription for the poor of the parish in general on a future day; but they expressed their determination not to be dictated to; they disdained to add to the general delusion, by celebrating a Jubilee at a period when the nation, by the general system pursued, during the present reign, has been brought almost to the brink of ruin."

To render the state of representation in the House of Commons pure, much is necessary to be reformed on the part of the people. The system of electors as well as of the elected ought to be radically changed. Contested elections are generally managed at so enormous an expense, and have so degenerated into mere uninteresting party squabbles between rival aristocrats, that an honest man hesitates to risque his own independence by wasting his fortune in lavishing vast sums on such occasions; as he spurs the disreputable traffic of selling his vote in parliament, he disdains to purchase the vote of the venal elector, or to barter with the landlord for the voices of his dependent tenantry. In fact contested elections are become such nuisances, and are so destructive of good morals, and of every thing that bears the semblance of public virtue, that men scruple to become candidates, on the present terms, and electors refuse to qualify themselves by registering, that they may not be drawn into the vortex of an election conducted in the usual manner. Seeing virtuous independence can effect so little, and fearful of contamination from the vices of an election, they make a choice of evils, and prefer inactivity and apparent apathy to engaging in a contest, in which much is risked, and but little can be gained. But such a state of things ought not to exist. Representatives should be returned free of expense by an *unbribed and uninfluenced* people. In vain do electors call for purity in the representatives until they shall become them-

selves independent. A pure stream can only arise from a pure source, and if the people, the spring and fountain of all political power is corrupted, we unreasonably look for propriety in the higher departments. To a very considerable degree, the representative will ever be the mirror of the body he represents. As an antidote to the evils of elections, we mentioned in our last retrospect, the honourable example of the electors of Westminster returning Sir Francis Burdett free of all expense to parliament. As a worthy sequel we now give a late address to the freeholders of Essex, and recommend it as a model of true constitutional principles, which if adhered to, and generally followed, would go far towards restoring the purity of representation. We hope in a future number to state a favourable issue to so proper a mode of requesting.

To the Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders of the County of Essex.

GENTLEMEN,

Notwithstanding the meeting of gentlemen and freeholders, holden this day, to the independent interest of the county, would not pledge themselves to support me, because I refused to attach myself to any party, I feel undismayed in the arduous, but glorious contest, in which I am engaged, and am determined to persevere in my attempt to vindicate your rights of election against the supporters of that compromise which has long tarnished the representation of this county.

Consider the critical situation of the country. Behold the melancholy aspect of public affairs, and then ask yourselves whether a considerable part of our national misfortunes may not be attributed to the ambition of these contending parties, of Whig and Tory? In Essex and Maldon what has been your representation for the last forty years? I may perhaps claim the merit of being the instrument in your hands, of dividing the coalition for the present; but believe me, that the division is merely temporary. The snake is wounded, but not destroyed.

It remains with you to trample on this venomous serpent, which has stung the vital parts of the constitution; for without pure representation, what is it but a name? Confiding in your spirit and good sense, I am resolved to persevere as long as I have an independent vote ready to bring forward. But observe, whilst I am vindicating your independence, I will ac-

ver sacrifice my own. The cause is general—general must be the exertion. I will be at no expense; I will not buy you, because I will not sell you; but I will do more, for I will serve you honestly, and prove myself, Gentlemen, your faithful and obedient Servant,

MONTAGU BURGOYNE.

Chelmsford, Jan. 6, 1810.

The spirit which has lately been aroused in the city of London appears to gain strength—the ministers having refused to permit the address of the Common Hall of the livery of London to be delivered to the king at the levee, but only through the medium of the Secretary of state's office, to be delivered, or cushioned at his option; another common hall has been held, at which were adopted some spirited resolutions (for which see documents,) declarative of the right to petition, and returning thanks to the Lord Mayor and one of the Sheriffs for their conduct. They published the petition formerly agreed on, and directed a copy of the present resolutions to be given into the king's hands.

The metropolis is supported by the county of Berks, where at a meeting of the freeholders held at Abingdon, a spirited address to the king moved by Lord Folkestone was agreed on. In allusion to the answer to the city of London as to the competence of parliament to institute inquiries, they pointedly remark in the following terms:

"We presume to state to your majesty, that we have seen, for years past, with the deepest concern, that attempts to procure parliamentary inquiry upon the subject of our national misfortunes, have, in all cases, been unsuccessful; and in the course of the last session we witnessed with not less astonishment than indignation, that a system was adopted, and almost proclaimed, of protecting public men from public inquiry—a system which is in direct defiance of the uniform practice of the best periods of our history, and the most undoubted, and invaluable principles of the constitution."

A struggle is commenced against corruption by the people. May it be persevering and successful! The happiness of these countries is at stake.

Corruption is potent, and to increase the odds against the reform of abuses, apathy sits enthroned in "the Castle of Indolence"—We have once more recourse to the bards of other days to rouse the slumbering spirit of independence, as too many of our present race of poets, unlike their predecessors, are leagued on the side of power. We venture to use the words of Thomson appropriately describing the prevailing influence of corruption, apathy, luxury and selfishness, as at least equally applicable to our times, as to the days in which he wrote, and perhaps increasingly characteristic, as the progress of luxury is greater:

"Spread far and wide was his curst influence,

Of public virtue much he dull'd the sense,

Even much of private; ate our spirit out,

And fed our rank luxurious vices: whence
The land was overlaid with many a lout!

Not as old Fame reports, wise, generous,
bold, and stout.

A rage of pleasure madden'd every breast,
Down to the lowest lees the ferment ran,

To his licentious wish, each must be blast,
With joy be fever'd; snatch it as he can.

Thus vice the standard rear'd; her arri-
ban,

Corruption call'd, and loud she gave the
word,

Mind, mind yourselves."——

Amid the innumerable difficulties which press on a distracted empire, a new source of danger arises from a mutiny among the native troops in India, headed by European officers. Already our possessions in the East have been productive of intolerable oppression to the natives, and besides of much evil to these countries, by the introduction of superfluous wealth, and the consequent luxury which has fatally attended. The influx of riches to a few individuals has had a powerful effect in enhancing the expense of living, and given an appearance of an unreal prosperity in these countries. Thus we feel "this plethoric ill" to endanger the healthful constitution of the state. We are besides presented with the strange anomaly of a great commercial body, possessing apparent wealth, and holding with the state in a divided and

ill-ascertained partnership, large-territorial possessions, while at the same time, they are annually borrowing large sums, and are in reality insolvent, and in a state very little short of bankruptcy. Let the present business be settled as it may, we venture to prognosticate that at no very distant period, the affairs of the East India company will, without a speedy and total change of system, involve our empire in alarming and perhaps inextricable difficulties. A refusal to renew the charter, and throwing open the trade to the public generally, may avert these evils. It would have probably been happy for us had our connection with the East never existed. Perhaps we might still have been a frugal people, unacquainted with the full extent of luxury, and not have bartered our independence for cumbrous wealth—Now our situation resembles that of the drunkard accustomed to his inordinate stimulus, unable to lay it aside without danger, and if continued, ready to sink under its effects. In our present state, we could ill bear the subtraction of the large revenue drawn from our trade with India, and yet our dangers are increased from this very source. Let us look around on every side, and gloomy prospects present. What a reverse in fifty brief years! Where are the grounds of Jubileizing? Contrast 1760 with the present period, and we may say with the poet,

"Fair laughs the morn and soft the zephyr
blows,
While proudly riding o'er the azure
realm,
In gallant trim the gilded vessel goes;
Youth on the prow, and pleasure at the
helm.
Regardless of the sweeping whirlwind's
sweep,
That hush'd in grim repose, expects his
evening prey." GRAY.

The parliament has met and ministry have been able to carry addresses without amendment in both houses. Until the strength of a minister is cautiously tried, the complaisance of parliament is well known. Sir George Saville, a steady patriot, and honest senator, in 1782 remarked in the house of commons, that if the king addressed parliament in the unmeaning

words of the song, "What beauties does Flora disclose?" the courtly answer would return "How sweet are her smiles upon Tweed." It is however remarkable, that in the same session which opened, as Sir George Saville thus sarcastically observed, the minister of that day, Lord North, was in the course of it left in a minority, and finally deserted; and before its determination, that administration which entailed so much mischief on their country by their management of the American war was completely overthrown.

On the 23d inst. the debates were long, and opposition had not a difficult task to point out the errors of administration as to the disgraceful expeditions sent out by them, and their unprincipled disputes among themselves, but the debates partake too much of a dispute between two parties, while the interests of the people are neglected. We wish to see the *party of the people* prevail unconnected either with those, who are now in place, or those who as eagerly seek to oust them for their own emolument.

The veteran statesman, known by the name of Single-speech Hamilton, in his posthumous publication, called Parliamentary Logic, who was well skilled in all the arcana of parliamentary and ministerial manœuvring, and like his precursor, Bubb Donnington, afterwards Lord Melcombe, of blabbing memory, lets out some choice secrets, which a wise people will treasure up to assist them in their judgment of political characters, tells us "that politics is a kind of game, of which the stake or prize was the administration of the country, and hence one party might with great propriety adopt such measures as would tend to bring their friends into administration, without weighing in golden scales the merits of the question proposed, as few questions had arisen since the revolution, in which *an honest man might not have voted conscientiously on either side.*"—This is barefaced political latitudinarianism, which we fear is too common, but it deserves to be stamped with decided reprobation as leading to the greatest political profligacy. It is

impossible to foresee how matters will go on in the present session at this crisis which all must allow to be a period of unexampled difficulty. Will the people do their parts in demanding inquiry, or will they continue in apathy? Will the parliament approve themselves vigilant guardians of the public weal? Will the people and parliament go hand in hand, or in the words of a late able statesman, shall we have "a petitioning people, and an addressing parliament?" or will both neglect their duty? On the manner in which time shall give a solution to these queries, much, very much indeed depends.

IRELAND.

The Duke of Richmond, lord lieutenant of Ireland makes frequent progresses through the country. His jovialities smooth his way and tend to remove prejudices. In a convivial hour at Limerick, he expressed liberal sentiments, towards our Catholic brethren. He has been requited for his condescension. The inhabitants of Newry previously to his arrival in that town, were summoned to consider of addressing him. In the spirit of returning unanimity, it was resolved not to address, as he belonged to an administration hostile to the claims of the Catholics. But his liberality at Limerick was remembered, another meeting was called, and an address was agreed on by both Protestants and Catholics, in which the removal of all restrictions was unequivocally alluded to. In his answer we are sorry to observe he took no notice of this part of the address. At Limerick he spoke *as the man*, at Newry, *as the minister*.

(For the address and answer, see the documents)

While the citizens of London have been laudably engaged in exertions to procure inquiries into the multiplied causes of our disastrous situation, the common council of Dublin, at their quartetly assembly, have been differently engaged. A resolution was brought forward to express their determination to resist the claims of the Catholics, which was rejected by 39 votes against 34. This triumph of liberality augurs well when compared with the former illiberal conduct of

that corporate body. So far is commendable, yet they are still silent on the momentous questions, which ought to operate on every patriotic breast, in the present awful crisis; and they appear far behind the citizens of London, in enlightened views. The festivities of the table ill compensate for the decay of public spirit, and of public virtue. The affability of a vice-regal court, and a round of city feasts, are poor substitutes for that noble independence, which is the essence of freedom, and causes a nation to be truly respectable, even if not possessed of a separate legislature.—It is fashionable with some to attribute all our political evils to the union. But whether that measure which was brought about by very profligate means, be in itself hurtful or not to us, enlarged patriotism and public spirit would enable us to surmount all difficulties. But alas! there is a miserable lack of these essential requisites to the welfare of a state. If independence of mind is wanting, no advantages of external situation, can compensate for its absence, nor no disadvantages can controul its powerful energies when it exists. It is independence of mind which we want.

—Be firm, nor let corruption sly,
Twine round your heart, indissoluble
chains.

Determin'd bold
Your independence, for that once destroy'd,
Unfounded, Freedom is a morning dream
That flits aerial from the spreading eye."

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

SMITH, MAYOR.

In a meeting or assembly of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Liverymen of the several companies of the city of London, in Common-hall assembled, at the Guildhall of the said city, on Tuesday the 9th day of January 1810.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY,

1, That it is the undoubted right of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Livery of the city of London, to present their petitions to the King, sitting upon his throne, that out of personal feelings towards their Sovereign they did at the last Common Hall, waive the exercise of this right.

2, Resolved unanimously—That it appears that the Secretary of state informed

the sheriffs, that the petition of the livery could be received only through his office, that they have been denied not only the usual access to his majesty by a personal audience, but the undoubted right of presenting the same, when they had actual access to his majesty at the levee, where they attended to present, and did present, a petition from the court of common council.

3, Resolved unanimously—That such a denial is not only subversive of the rights of the livery, but a flagrant violation of the right of petitioning, claimed, demanded, and insisted upon, and confirmed to them by the bill of rights.

4, Resolved unanimously—That all complaints of the misconduct and incapacity of his majesty's servants are most likely to be nugatory, if such complaints must pass through the hands of those very servants, and the people can have no security that their complaints are heard.

5, Resolved—That whoever advised his majesty not to receive the petition of the livery in the accustomed and established mode, have committed a scandalous breach of their duty, violated one of the first principles of the constitution, and abused the confidence of their sovereign.

6, Resolved unanimously—That this common hall, disregarding all attempts and designs of interested and corrupt hirelings, who derive emoluments from the national burthens, to impute unworthy and disloyal motives to those who resist unprincipled and dangerous encroachments upon their established rights, are determined, to the utmost of their power, to maintain them against those evil counselors, who have thus raised a barrier between the king and the people, and thereby prevented their just complaints from reaching the royal ear.

7, Resolved—That the following instructions be given to our representatives in parliament:

Gentlemen—You are hereby instructed to move in the house of commons (or support such motion, if moved) for an humble address to his Majesty, praying for an immediate and rigid inquiry into the cause of the unexampled failures and disasters which have attended our late expeditions to Spain, Portugal, and Holland, whereby the blood and treasure of the country have been shamefully sacrificed, without rendering any effectual assistance to our allies, checking the progress of the enemy, or tending to the glory or security of his majesty's crown and dominions. You are also instructed to support all motions which have for their object inquiry into the violation of the rights of petitioning—

into the wasteful expenditure of the public money—the correction of public abuses—the abolition of all unnecessary places and pensions—the shortening of the duration of parliaments, and restoring them to their constitutional purity and independence, as the only means of retrieving our public affairs, and enabling this country successfully to contend against surrounding nations.

8, Resolved unanimously—That the sheriffs, attended by Mr. Remembrancer, do forthwith wait upon his majesty, and deliver into his majesty's hand, in the name of the lord mayor, aldermen, and livery of London, a fair copy of the foregoing resolutions, signed by the town-clerk.

9, Resolved unanimously—That the thanks of this meeting be given to the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, for his independent behaviour upon all occasions, and particularly for his conduct this day.

10, Resolved unanimously—That the thanks of this meeting be given to Sheriff Wood, for his general conduct, and for his having requested an audience of his majesty, agreeable to the instructions of this hall.

11, Resolved unanimously—That the resolutions of this day, together with the petition agreed upon, on the 14th of December last, be signed by the town-clerk, and published in the usual morning and evening papers.

WOODTHORPE.
TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY,
The humble and dutiful address and petition of the lord mayor, aldermen and livery of the city of London, in common hall assembled.

MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN,

We, your majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the lord mayor, aldermen, and livery of the city of London, in common hall assembled, most humbly approach your majesty, at this awful crisis, to exercise a duty no less painful than imperious.

It is to represent with humility to your majesty the present deplorable situation of public affairs, that we have again approached your royal person.

Attached to your majesty's illustrious house, from affection and from duty, we should ill demonstrate the sincerity of our loyalty, were we to conceal from your majesty, that it is not amongst the least considerable of our grievances, that attempts should have been made to brand your majesty's faithful subjects with disaffection to your person and government, whenever they have exercised their indubitable right to complain of gross abuses in the state, or to attribute the disgraceful failure of expensive and calamitous enterprises, to the ignorance and incapacity of

those, who either planned or executed them; as if infallibility were the appendage of office, and belongs of right to those who may be called into your majesty's councils.

With equal grief and indignation we have seen the disastrous result of various expeditions, in which your majesty's armies have been unhappily engaged, and which most forcibly mark the disgraceful imbecility of those distracted councils, which have so scandalously lavished the blood and treasure of a patient, loyal, and burthened people.

Towards the close of the preceding year, your faithful citizens humbly expressed to your majesty their deep concern and disappointment at the disgraceful convention of Cintra; but we have yet to deplore, that due and efficient inquiry has not been made into that disgraceful transaction.

It is equally painful to call to your majesty's recollection the melancholy fate of a second army, assembled within the peninsula, under the gallant commander, Sir John Moore—ignorant alike of the state and disposition of the Spaniards, and the force and designs of the enemy, this army being sent into the interior of Spain, was in imminent danger of being captured; in this critical emergency and state of agonizing perplexity, abandoned to his own resources, this hapless, but meritorious officer, at length discovered that he had no safety but in flight, with the loss of his ammunition, horses, specie, and baggage, and harassed and assailed on all sides, he secured the retreat of the remains of his gallant followers, by the sacrifice of his own invaluable life.

Deriving no benefit from experience, a third well-appointed army, under the command of Sir Arthur Wellesley, was hurried into the interior of Spain, alike ignorant of the force and movements of the enemy, where, after an unprofitable display of British valour, and a dreadful slaughter, this army, like the former, was compelled to seek its safety by a precipitate retreat, before (what we were led to believe) a vanquished foe, leaving thousands of our sick and wounded countrymen in the hands of the enemy.

This loss, like others, has passed without inquiry, and as if impunity had placed the servants of the crown above the reach of justice, your majesty has been advised to confer titles of honourable distinction on the general, who had thus exhibited a rash and ostentatious display of unprofitable bravery.

After these multiplied errors, and in defiance of reiterated experience, we have seen another expedition yet more expensive, more disgraceful, and more catastro-

phous than the former. This armament, delayed until the fate of Austria was decided, landed on the unwholesome shores of the Scheldt, where, after an unaccountable state of inaction, thousands of our brave soldiers have miserably and ingloriously perished, by pestilence, privation and disease, without having accomplished one national object. On such an expedition, planned and conducted by a minister, who it is now known had been pronounced unfit for his office by his colleagues—an expedition that touches all minds with shame, and fills all hearts with agony, it is too painful to dilate.

We cannot refrain from representing to your majesty, that while the affairs of the nation have been so shamefully mis-conducted abroad, the most scandalous waste, profusion and mismanagement, has prevailed at home; and your majesty's confidential advisers, destitute of all those qualities essential to good government, and regardless alike of the sufferings of the people and of the honour of their sovereign, and insensible or indifferent to the surrounding dangers, and the impending fate of the country, have been engaged in the most disgraceful squabbles, intrigues and cabals, that ever degraded the councils of any nation, and which cannot but be as disreputable to your majesty's government as they are ruinous and dishonourable to the country.

While we disclaim all interest in the views of contending parties, from a firm conviction that we cannot look for a reformation in the abuses of the state, from any persons or parties interested in the preservation of them; we cannot but express our ardent hope that your majesty will be more fortunate in the choice of the men to whom you may hereafter confide the conduct of affairs, and that your councils will be no longer embarrassed, nor the country insulted and dishonoured by those disgraceful occurrences, which, while they have exposed us to the ridicule of surrounding nations, may embolden the enemy to look forward with confidence to the subjugation of a nation so distracted in her councils, and so improvidently governed.

That while we forbear enumerating a long train of internal grievances, we cannot but attribute such a series of failures and disasters to the abuses and corruptions of the state, and the consequent want of a constitutional control over the public expenditure, and the servants of the crown, whereby the responsibility of ministers appears to exist only in name.

We therefore humbly pray your majesty will be graciously pleased to assure your loyal and affectionate people, that the

object to which their wishes are directed, is neither to be abandoned or deluded; and that your majesty will be pleased to institute a rigid, impartial, and general inquiry, into these great national misfortunes; into the plans upon which these expeditions were undertaken; and into the conduct of the commanders to whom they were intrusted. Signed by order,
HENRY WOODTHORPE,

NEWRY MEETING.

In consequence of a requisition of the seneschal of Newry, a meeting of the inhabitants of that town took place, on Tuesday, the 26th of December, to consider of the propriety of voting an address to the lord lieutenant, on his intended progress through the town. The Seneschal having taken the chair, he informed the meeting that he had received an account from Lord Jocelin, that the Duke of Richmond would pass through, and an address to his Grace was proposed. This however was objected to, not on the grounds of any personal dislike to his Grace, but on account of his being one of the *No Popery Administration*, and so decidedly and unequivocally was this the sentiment of the meeting, that the object was abandoned, and the meeting was unanimously dissolved.

If any thing can exhibit the necessity of inculcating sentiments of liberality on all occasions, the good effects may be fairly exemplified on the present occasion, as those in Newry who might have been induced, from various and contradictory sentiments, to oppose an address proposed by the oppositionists, have been on this occasion happily united, by the publication of the liberal sentiments avowed by the Duke of Richmond on his late tour in the South. We therefore rejoice in laying before the public any account that may prove the good effect of persons of different parties coming together to consult on any public measure, for however their sentiments may at first be jarring and contradictory, yet on mature reflection the heated imagination will subside and good sense will prevail. Observe therefore the good effects produced in the space of four days—As the wish to compliment the Duke of Richmond was so happily brought about by a wish to re-echo the previous liberal sentiments avowed by his Grace. On the 30th of December a new requisition was issued in the morning for a meeting to be held at twelve o'clock. On the Seneschal taking the chair, a debate of considerable length took place, the result of which was the unanimous adoption of the following resolutions:—

That his Grace the Lord Lieutenant should be addressed on his passage through the town.

That a committee of nine gentlemen should retire to prepare an address.

That it be an instruction to said committee, that the determination of the town in favour of Catholic Emancipation should, in express words, or by unequivocal allusion, form a part of said address.

After the adjournment of an hour, the aggregate meeting was resumed, and the address proposed by the committee was unanimously adopted, to be presented on behalf of the inhabitants of the town, by Robert Thompson, esq. Seneschal. On the 3d of January, the address was accordingly presented to the Duke of Richmond:—

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR GRACE;

We, his Majesty's loyal and faithful subjects, the inhabitants of Newry, animated with a grateful sense of the happiness we enjoy under your mild, just and equal administration, humbly beg leave through our Seneschal, to offer to your grace our warm and sincere congratulations on your arrival in this town. We rejoice in the opportunity of testifying our inviolable attachment to our beloved King, his family and government, and of expressing our ardent wish that he may long continue to reign over a free, happy and united people.—In proportion as we entertain a just veneration for our beloved and aged monarch, and a due regard for our invaluable liberties, we contemplate with seriousness the awful hazard in which both may become involved, by the accumulated power of the enemy with whom we are engaged; but though impressed with the greatness of the contest, with the immense value of that for which we contend, we look without dismay to the issue. Our first great hope is in the protecting mercies of an all ruling Providence; and as far as all human means can be relied on, we depend upon the undoubted valour of our fleets and armies. The wisdom of our Sovereign and of his Council, will, we trust, remove all cause of jealousy and all source of division in his empire. In an united people enjoying a perfect community of rights; feeling the value of equal laws justly administered; attached to the dear affections of their homes, associated in the spirit of valour and of loyalty, there will be found that strength which is alone commensurate to the crisis.

THE DUKE'S ANSWER.

GENTLEMEN,

I return you my sincere thanks for your congratulations on my arrival in your

town, and for your expressions of inviolable attachment to our beloved Sovereign, his family and government. In the arduous contest in which we are engaged, I have with you the firmest reliance on the valour of our fleets and armies—and on considering the magnitude of the objects at stake, I trust we may also rely on the exertions of all classes for the preservation of our invaluable constitution, and in defence of our King and Country.

THE KING'S SPEECH.

The speech pronounced in his majesty's name, on opening the session is, in substance:—

“That the commissioners have it in command from his majesty to express his majesty's deep regret, that the exertions of the Emperor of Austria against the violence of France had proved unavailing; and that his imperial majesty had been reduced to the necessity of abandoning the contest, and concluding a disadvantageous peace. Though the war was entered upon by the Emperor of Austria, without any concert with his majesty; yet his majesty had thought it right to make every effort for the assistance and support of his imperial majesty, when engaged in the contest so far as was consistent with a due support of the powers in alliance with his majesty, and with a due regard to the safety and interest of his majesty's dominions. His majesty's attention had been attracted to the enemy's naval armaments and establishments in the Scheldt, which it had been thought proper to destroy, as well because they were becoming daily more formidable to his majesty's dominions, as because an attack upon them would have the effect of withdrawing part of the enemy's forces on the Danube, or diverting the troops intended for that destination; while it would at the same time rouse the spirit, and confirm the vigour and resolution of the Austrian government and people, and animate the general resistance of those opposed to the common enemy. These considerations had determined his majesty to employ his forces on an expedition to the Scheldt, and, although the principal ends of that expedition had not been attained in the extent that was confidently hoped, yet advantages very material to the prosecution of the war had accrued with success against the enemy, and with safety to his majesty's dominions, by the destruction of the enemy's docks and arsenals at Flushing, which had been accomplished in consequence of the reduction of the island of Walcheren by the valour of his majesty's fleets and armies. His majesty had given directions to lay before

his parliament the documents requisite to afford satisfactory information on the subject of this expedition.

“His majesty had given it in command, to notify that Sweden had determined to make peace with France. His majesty, in his intercourse with that power, had uniformly impressed that the continuance of the war was to depend on the result of the consideration of his or her own objects and situation. While, therefore, his majesty felt regret that Sweden had been compelled to purchase peace by great sacrifices, it was a consolation to him, that she could not complain of being subjected to these sacrifices by his majesty's interference, or with a view to his interest. It is his majesty's earnest wish, that no event should occur to disturb the relations of amity subsisting between him and that power.

“The commissioners have it further in command from his majesty to inform his parliament, that the efforts made for the deliverance of Portugal, aided by the confidence the Prince Regent had reposed in his majesty, and the co-operation of the local government of that country had been successful in expelling the French from it; and that the forces which had accomplished that object, had afterwards, under the command of Lord Viscount Wellington, gained a glorious victory at Talavera, which checked the progress of the French in Spain. The Spanish government, governing in the name, and by the authority of Ferdinand VII. had, in consequence of this victory, been enabled to make more effectual provisions for the defence of the country; and his majesty trusted, that the approaching assembly of the Cortes, would infuse fresh vigour into the country, and enable the people to maintain with spirit the contest for their independence. His majesty was satisfied it would be felt to be an object of most important consideration to aid and supply, by our continued efforts, the struggle thus maintained for the independence of Spain, and he trusted to the support of his parliament for that object.

“The negotiations between his majesty's minister to the United States of America had been suddenly interrupted, in a manner that was to be lamented; but his majesty had received from the American minister in this country the strongest assurances of a disposition to maintain the relations of peace and amity; a disposition which should be met with a corresponding inclination on the part of his majesty.

“To the gentlemen of the house of commons, the commissioners had it in command to say, that the estimates of the

current year should be laid before them; and that while those estimates had been framed with every attention to economy that a regard to the safety and interest of his majesty's empire would admit; his majesty lamented the pressure of the burthens which the continuance of the war rendered it necessary to lay upon his subjects.

"His majesty recommends the lords and gentlemen to resume the consideration of an increased provision for the inferior clergy. The accounts of the trade and revenue of the empire are represented to be highly satisfactory. The measures adopted by the French government against these parts of our resources had altogether failed of their intended effect; but the enemy continued the contest with his usual animosity; and to defeat his designs against his majesty's dominions and his allies, the utmost exertions, vigilance and fortitude, would be required; for which his majesty relied on the wisdom of his parliament, the valour of his forces, and the determination of his people."

CATHOLIC MEETING.

At a general meeting of the Roman Catholics of the city of Limerick, convened by public advertisement, and held at the Commercial Buildings, on Friday, the 22d December, 1809.

WILLIAM ROCHE, ESQ. IN THE CHAIR.

The following resolutions were agreed to:

That, estimating the importance of the Catholic claims, not only to ourselves, but to the empire at large, no session should intervene without petitioning parliament for the repeal of those existing and unimprinted laws that still exclude us from an equal participation of the benefits of the constitution, which we support and defend with an attachment not inferior to any other description of our fellow subjects.

That we deem it expedient, that a distinct petition should be presented from our body in this city, and that the petition which has been now read meets our approbation and concurrence.

That the Right Hon. Colonel Vereker, our city representative, be requested to present and support our said petition to parliament—and that our county members, Colonel Odell and the Hon. Windham Quin, (whose prior aid, and steady attachments claim our sincere acknowledgements) be likewise requested to support the same.

That our gratitude is due to our Protestant and other enlightened fellow-subjects of different communions, who have had the liberality to admit the justice of

our claims, and the good sense to see the expediency of exciting in all classes of his majesty's subjects an equal share of zeal, by giving them an equal share of interest in the defence of the constitution.

That our chairman, and the following gentlemen—John Howley, Dennis Lyons, John Kelly, John M'Namara, Christopher Meade, and Michael Arthur, eqrs. be requested to continue a committee for the purpose of forwarding our said petition, and taking such other steps as circumstances may render necessary.

That the foregoing resolutions be signed by our chairman, and published in the Limerick, Cork, Dublin and London newspapers.

WILLIAM ROCHE, CHAIRMAN.

Mr. Roche having left the chair, and John Howley, esq. having been called thereto:

The thanks of this meeting were unanimously voted to Mr. Roche, for his very proper conduct in the chair.

JOHN HOWLEY,

Letter published by the Friends of Lord Grenville, in Answer to the various Placards, Lampoons, Caricatures, &c. issued by the partizans of Lord Eldon, relative to the Oxford election.

TO THE MEMBERS OF CONVOCATION.

During the whole of the present contest, the friends of Lord Grenville have studiously abstained from every thing which could be thought offensive or disrespectful to either of the other candidates. They have been led to adopt this conduct, not only because it best accorded with Lord Grenville's wishes and with their own feelings, but because they were convinced also, that the honour of the University, which is of more importance than the success of any candidate especially required it. At the same time they are ready to profess their belief, that, among honourable men, such conduct gave them the fairest prospect of success.

Their leading principle of action has been to appeal individually to the good sense and unbiassed judgments of those who may from their education be expected to abhor vulgar calumny, and to be superior to vulgar prejudice. And whenever a more public appeal has been made, it has been extorted from them by the necessity of refuting charges, publicly advanced, or of stopping the circulation of direct falsehood. In all these proceedings they have never gone beyond the line of strict defence, they have never forgotten what was due to the high character of the nobleman whose cause they espoused, to the dignity of that station which he is desir-

rons of filling, to the common credit and fair fame of the University, and to the established usages of former times.

But although, in adhering to this principle, their steadiness has remained unshaken, yet their patience has not been untried. The provocation to depart from it has been frequent, deliberate, and systematic. Not only have libels of the meanest sort been disseminated by secret agents, but the public prints have been paid to insert articles, the object of which is to misrepresent Lord Grenville in the eyes of the world, and to vilify those who support him; and there is reason to apprehend that this practice has received the sanction of those who ought to have employed their influence in preventing or suppressing it.

From the various forms which these libels have assumed and from the industry with which they are spread abroad, it may be thought by many, who are inexperienced in such ways, that they flow from the spontaneous feelings of men unconnected, and independent of each other. But they all bear the same stamp. And they may all be referred, as many of them have been actually traced, to the same source. It may be necessary, for the sake of those whose vote is yet undetermined, to warn them of these practices. Among the supporters of Lord Eldon, it should seem, by their language, that there are some, who are not so much actuated by attachment to him, as by hostility to Lord Grenville.

The motives which are assigned for this hostility are the same which have been often successfully employed to mislead and inflame the populace; but which, it is hoped, will possess but little influence with liberal and enlightened minds.—There is not an individual in the kingdom who has evinced a more uniform and ardent attachment to the Established Church than that nobleman: there is none who has shown himself more anxious to preserve its rights, and to provide for its security; and it can scarcely be believed, that even his enemies entertain at heart the opinions concerning him which they seek to propagate.

Whatever may be the issue of the present contest, the remembrance of these unworthy acts will bring their proper punishment to those who used them. Their effect must naturally be to embitter defeat, and to diminish the satisfaction resulting from success; while those who have honestly pursued the right course, and who have dreaded disgrace more than failure, will retire from the contest with sentiments of mutual respect, whether defeated or victorious, and however different their objects of pursuit may have been, they will equally enjoy the conscious recollection, that they have laboured, by fair and upright means, in no ignoble cause, and that they have in no instance swerved from the path of honour.

Brazen Nose, Dec. 12, 1803.

PUBLIC OCCURRENCES.

BRITISH.

BUYING UP GUINEAS.

Saturday, at the mansion-house, a Jew of the name of De Youngs, was charged by the solicitor of the mint, under an act of Queen Elizabeth, with the offence of selling the current coin of the realm, called guineas, at a higher than the current value. By the statute in question, it is declared that any person who shall extort, demand, or receive, for any of the current coin of the realm, more than the legal current value thereof, shall be esteemed guilty of felony. It appeared that the prisoner had sold 56 guineas for a sum amounting to about 22s. 6d. each, or 1s. 6d. for each guinea more than the legal price and current value. Evidence being adduced to prove this case, the prisoner was fully committed to take his trial for the offence.

A melancholy occurrence took place during a heavy gale from N.E. The ship

Thomas, about 400 tons burthen, Henry Gatt, master, from Curacao, bound to Liverpool, came ashore at Red-wharf, Anglesea, and in a few minutes went to pieces, when, dreadful to relate, every soul on board perished, to the number, it is conceived, of about 30 persons! Great part of her cargo has come ashore, and is secured for the owners; several thousand dollars are already lodged in the custom-house, Beaumaris.

Messrs. Brander, Grant, M'Leod, Blackiston, Lewis, Tattnall, Hall and Meek, midshipmen of the royal navy, arrived in London on the 26th ult. having effected their escape from the prison of Givet, in France, after nearly four years imprisonment in that country. On their way towards the coast they picked up and brought with them a poor British seaman, with a wooden leg, who effected his escape from the prison of Arras.

Sunday, January 27th, being the birth-day of her royal highness princess Charlotte of Wales, she received the congratulations of his royal highness the prince of Wales, the dukes of York, Kent, Cumberland, and Cambridge; the duchess of Brunswick, the duke of Brunswick Oels, and a great number of the nobility and gentry, at Warwick-house; and in the evening her royal highness the princess of Wales gave a grand entertainment, at her apartments in Kensington palace, on the occasion; there were present, her royal highness the princess Charlotte of Wales, the dukes of Kent and Cambridge, the duchess of Brunswick, the duke of Brunswick Oels, prince Stahremberg, and a numerous train of nobility and gentry.

Eastern Politeness.—When Mr. Perceval waited on the Persian ambassador to compliment him on his arrival in England, he was fearful that the season of the year would make an unfavourable impression on the mind of his excellency; Mr. Perceval, therefore desired Sir G. Ouseley, to tell his excellency that this was the middle of winter, when the sun was frequently hidden from our view several days together. His excellency answered—“The ruddiness of your countenance is sufficient to illuminate the atmosphere, and in your presence the absence of the sun need not be regretted. You are the great star that sheds its influence over England (perhaps his excellency meant the treasury) *You are the ruby of delight,* the pearl of pearls, the brilliant of*

* These were the express words used by his excellency.

brilliant, and the diamond of diamonds, and your presence is more agreeable to the senses than otto of Persian roses.” On this shower of eastern compliments Mr. P. was nearly overcome, and after making an *Eastern obeisance*, with great difficulty (for he was near falling, *he bowed so profoundly*) he slid away out of Audul Mirza Hassan's presence.

The French government have projected a new grand military map of Germany, to consist of 400 sheets; in order to render it as complete as possible, application has been made to the court of Denmark, for the trigonometrical mensurations, calculations, and maps, of the duchies of Schleswig and Holstein, which have accordingly been forwarded by the academy of sciences to Paris.

The French minister of marine has promulgated a code of laws for the government of privateers and the distribution of prizes, chiefly with a view to encourage individuals to embark their property in speculations of that kind. By these, the masters of privateers are directed to ransom, burn, or destroy all vessels to or from Great Britain or her colonies, provided the estimated value does not exceed £10,000, but all vessels exceeding in value that sum are to be sent to France. In regard to ransomed ships, the masters of privateers are directed to take the mate and two seamen as hostages, or security for the payment of the stipulated sum; if the money is paid, the men are to be liberated and sent home, but in default of payment are to be imprisoned as debtors to the nation.

DOMESTIC OCCURRENCES.

At a meeting of the inhabitants of Belfast, held at the Exchange-rooms, the 29th inst. to consider the propriety of petitioning parliament, to continue the prohibition of distillation from grain: Edward May, esq. sovereign, in the chair. Mr. S. Ferguson proposed a petition to that effect, stating as a sufficient ground for it, that grain was now considerably higher in price, than when the prohibition was first resorted to; and that if there was good cause then for

the enactment, there was now more for the continuance of it. The Rev. Edw. May combated the policy and justice of the prohibition by a variety of arguments, as contrary to the general interests of the country, by discouraging the farmer from increasing his produce, and thereby making provision for a time of scarcity; and as unjust to one part of the community in fixing a maximum to the price of their commodity, while other commercial speculations were left unfet-

tered—The sovereign ended with some arguments to the same purpose by saying that to his own knowledge, Ireland was on the verge of being saddled with that worst of all impositions an Income Tax.

The petition was finally agreed to, and ordered to be presented to parliament.

At a meeting of the proprietors of the London Derry library and News-room, held in the townhall; Thomas Lecky, esq. mayor, in the chair, the following resolutions were proposed and agreed to.

1, That a subscription shall be opened for the purchase of books and the fitting up of a library.

2, That the number of original proprietors be limited to 125, and that after said number shall be filled up, any person wishing to become a proprietor, shall for the first ten years subsequent to the opening of the library, pay as his subscription, the sum of ten guineas, and at any future period the sum of twenty.

3, That the holder of a share shall have power at any time to sell, or transfer it to any person, such person being subject to the approval of the committee, and in case of rejection by it, having a right of appeal to a ballot of the body at large.

4, That the property of the institution, be vested in trustees, and that said trustees be the lord bishop of Derry, the Mayor of the city, and the representative in parliament, all for the time being.

5, That to the support of the establishment, an annual subscription of one guinea and a half, be paid by each holder of a share.

6, That a committee not exceeding five, shall be annually elected by ballot from among the proprietors, for the purpose of purchasing books, contracting for rooms for the accommodation of subscribers, and transacting the business of the institution.

7, That the committee shall have power to elect a librarian, who is to take charge of the books, and to remain in the library while open, as also a proper person to attend in the news room, to file the papers, and keep the room in proper order; and that the committee shall have power to fix such salaries as they shall deem expedient to them, respectively.

8, That the library shall be open in summer from 7 in the morning, till 10 at night, and in winter, from 8 in the morning till 10 at night, allowing reasonable intervals of recreation for the librarian, viz. one hour for breakfast, and two hours for dinner.

9, That the library shall be shut on sundays.

10, That no person shall on any account take any book, paper, or publication out of the library or news room, under pain of expulsion and loss of share in the institution.

11, That a treasurer shall be elected each year from among the proprietors, and that the committee shall audit his accounts annually.

12, That all persons, not proprietors, who may desire to read in the news room, shall pay one guinea and a half annually, such persons being first approved of by the committee.

13, That each proprietor shall be allowed to introduce one stranger, and on so doing shall enter his own name, as well as the name and residence of the person introduced, in a book kept for the purpose, which introduction shall be valid for three days, and if wished to be continued, must be then renewed.

14, That no person residing within ten miles of the city shall be considered a stranger, that is, shall avail himself of the introduction of a proprietor.

15, That in default of payment of the annual subscription by any proprietor, the treasurer shall in one month after, report the same to the committee, which shall have power to sell the share of the defaulter, and after deducting the arrears due, shall pay over the balance to such defaulter, or his representatives.

16, That each proprietor on paying his subscription, shall sign a declaration upon his honour as a gentleman, that he will never tear, deface, injure, or carry away, any book, paper or publication, belonging to the institution.

17, That every member who shall not have paid his subscription, on or before the 1st day of November next, shall forfeit his place in the institution.

On balloting for a committee, the Rev. F. H. Browne, Rev. Doctor Black, Rev. James Knox, Alderman John Curry, and Alderman Lecky, were elected.

The Rev. F. H. Browne, having proposed Mr. John Dysart, as treasurer for the first year, he was unanimously elected.

The Rev. Dr. Black, seconded by the Rev. James Knox, moved the thanks of the meeting, to the Rev. F. H. Browne, for the ability, zeal, and perseverance he had displayed in suggesting and furthering the plan of the institution. Carried unanimously.

The Mayor having left the chair, M. S. Hill, esq. seconded by Alderman John Curry, moved the thanks of the meeting to the Mayor, for his very proper and liberal conduct in the chair. Carried unanimously.

N.B. The treasurer having been ordered by the committee to proceed forthwith

to collect the subscriptions, notice is hereby given, that his books are now open for that purpose.

The corporation has given ground for building a house, to accommodate the Subscribers, and it is expected that they will subscribe 60 guineas per annum.

A grant is likewise expected from the London Society, to which the city belongs.

On Tuesday night, in Dublin, were apprehended by the peace-officers of the head office of Police, two men, charged with swindling. It appears that they were concerned with a man named Arthur Downes, who kept a shop in Great Britain-street, with whom hills were occasionally passed for accommodation; goods were raised, purchased from shop-keepers, and one of the bills passed at 61 or 91 days, for the amount; by a good look-out these people have happily been detected. A visit was paid by the peace-officers of the same office, to Mr. Downes, at Great Britain-street, and in his shop was found a great appearance of goods, but when examined, all was outward show, for what appeared to be linen-draperies, fustian, corduroys, &c. were literally small remnants stuffed with hay. The shop was taken by a shop-keeper in Francis-street, who set up this Downes, and drew upon him, and so back in return. The owner of the house in Great Britain-street, is a very respectable tradesman, a Mr. Murphy, who always considered it extraordinary that Downes never inhabited the kitchen which belonged to the shop, nor even communicated with the interior of the house, but kept fastened the door which opened into it. However, it is now discovered that it better enabled him and his colleagues to carry on this trade in private, in order to swindle the public with greater effect. A vast concourse of tradesmen have appeared before the sitting magistrate, Major Sirr, and much important matter has come out. Those people were connected with Roscommon, Sligo and Leitrim.

ULSTER.

Married.... Rev. Henry Hulbert Wolsley, to Alicia, daughter of Rev. Mr. Hewetson, Rockmount, county Down.

Rev. George Hay, to Miss Thomson, both of Londonderry.

At Newry, Mr. Nicholas Sloan, to Miss Jennings.

Mr. Robert Davidson, of Killileagh, to Miss Kinning of Tullychin.

Rev. Mr. Blakely of Moneyrea, near Belfast, to Miss Lindsay of Tullyhavan, near Banbridge.

Mr. Richard Rogers of Belfast, to Miss Hamilton.

BELFAST MAG. NO. XVIII.

Mr. Robert Boyd of Carny-hill, to Miss M'Bride of Kylestown, Bangor.

Mr. John Robinson of Ballymaglany, to Miss Margaret Cummin of Green-graves, near Newtownards.

Mr. Robert Gibson of Drumulug, to Miss S. Kelly of Lisbarnet, near Comber.

Mr. James Wilson to Miss Brady, both of Belfast.

M. M'Murray of Bleary, county Down, to Miss Emily Cook, daughter of the late Dr. Cook of Lurgan.

Andrew Trew, esq. of Millpond-house, to Miss Andrews of Armagh.

Mr. John Service of Belfast, to Miss M'Clure of Heathfield.

Rev. Mr. Andrew Shannon, to Miss Mary Gillespie, of Newtownlimavaddy.

Died.... Captain Hope of Londonderry. Richard Heyland, esq. of Castleroe, county Derry.

Mr. Francis Taggart of Belfast.

Mr. Dannel Shannon of Belfast.

Mrs., Elizabeth Ekenhead of Belfast.

At Belfast, Mrs. Elizabeth Skinner, widow of the late General Skinner.

Mrs. Richardson, wife of Thomas Richardson, esq. of Belfast.

Mrs. Eleanor Hamilton, of Gola, near Monaghan.

Mrs. J. Palmer, of Belfast.

Mr. George Martin, of Belfast.

Mr. Andrew Harvey of Omagh, of a gun-shot wound received while quietly passing the street, on the 12th of August last.

LEINSTER.

William Stott, M. D. to Miss Catharine Griffith, second daughter of Richard Griffith, esq. of Leeson-street, Dublin.

Mr. William Hancock of Abbey-street, Dublin, to Miss Ann Wainwright, county Wicklow.

Married.... Edward Ledwich, esq. York-street, Dublin, to Catharine Eleanor, daughter of the late John Hawkesworth, esq. of Mountrath, Queen's county.

Mr. Thomas Kidd of Mullingar, to Miss M'Cormick of Ross.

Rev. James Kearney, (son of the bishop of Ossory) to Miss Jane Maria Atkinson.

Henry Smith, esq. of Trinity-street, to Miss Fry of Gardener's-place Dublin.

Charles Lennon, esq. of Athlone, to Miss Rose Kelly of Clooncannon, county Galway.

M. G. Bathurst, esq. of Hardwicke-street, Dublin, to Miss Anne Dickey.

Mr. Bernard Byrne of Jervis-street, Dublin, to Miss Catharine Rogers of Brides'-Alley.

Edward Mayne, esq. of Merrion-square, to Elizabeth, daughter of William Henn, esq. Master in chancery.

Mr. Quigley of Nicholas-street, Dublin, to Miss Anne Kennedy of Plunket-street.

Mr. Kesne of the Custom-house, Dublin, to Miss Shields of Henry-street.

Mr. William Brunton of Ballybough-bridge, near Dublin, to Miss Rea of same place.

At Wexford, Charles Elgee, esq. to Sarah, daughter of the late Dr. Kingsbury.

Mr. P. Connell, of North Frederick street, Dublin, to Miss Hart of Dorset-street.

John O'Beirne, esq. of Ann-street, Dublin, to Miss Brett of Usher's-quay.

Mr. John Kempston of Nassau-street, Dublin, to Miss Eleanor Saunders of Mecklenburgh-street.

Died... On the 16th inst. in Linen-hall-street, Dublin, Benjamin Haughton, who lately resided at Belfast. Delicate sensibility, and genuine modest worth peculiarly marked his character. During his short course, he discharged his social and relative duties in that amiable manner which showed the benevolence of a warm and honest heart. He lived beloved in the circle of his relations and friends, who knew his worth, and died lamented.

Andrew Higginbotham, esq. of the treasury.

At Vicks-hill, near Bray, the lady of John Mayne, esq.

At Cullen's-wood, near Ranelagh, James Hyde, esq. one of His Majesties messengers.

Mr. Michael M'Sorley of Bridge-street, Dublin.

Skeffington Thomson, esq. of Rathnally, county Meath.

Mr. Michael Gerrard of Stackura, county Dublin, an opulent farmer, of most respectable character.

Mrs. Gatty, of William-street, Dublin.

Robert Archdall, esq. of the auditor's

office, suddenly when departing from a large party of friends, among whom he spent the evening.

At Camelin, county Wexford, John Drake, esq.

MUNSTER.

Married... At Limerick, Mr. George M'Kern, to Miss Margaret Worrell.

At Cork, Mr. George Edwards, to Miss Roe.

Gerald Lloyd, esq. of the Limerick Militia, to Miss Maria Moore, of Cartuon Lodge county Longford.

William Cantrell, esq. of Wellmount, to Miss Phæbe Howard.

Wm. Nicholson, of Turtula, county Tipperary, to Miss Stepany of Vaulcuse, near Newport.

Francis Fosberry, jun. of Currabridge, county Limerick, esq. to Mrs. B. Creagh, widow of J. B. Creagh, esq. of Creagh-castle.

At Cork, Henry Bennett, esq. to Miss Colburn.

Rev. Mr. Adams, of Clare, to Eliza, third daughter of Robert Kelly.

Died... John Power, esq. of Clogheen, county Waterford.

John Archibald, esq. of Waterford,

Mr. Benjamin Moore, Waterford.

Mrs. Bowles, wife of Mr. John Bowles, Limerick.

Mrs. Fell, of Brunswick, near Clonmel, aged 95.

Mrs. Sinnott, wife of Mr. William Sinnott of Waterford.

Mr. James Savage, late high constable of Waterford.

Rev. Mr. Stack. P.P. of Lettermough, Dingle.

Captain Herbert at Killarney.

At Ballinvonere, near Cork, Mr. James Daly, aged 101, in possession of all his faculties to his last year.

CONNAUGHT.

Died... At Kinclair, county Galway, Mrs. Smith, wife of James Smith, esq.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT.

From December 20, 1809, till January 20, 1810.

THE weather for last month has been favourable for the operations of the plough, a few days only of frost have intervened to interrupt its progress; and it is to be hoped the farmers have not neglected to embrace the opportunity of putting forward that important part of their work.

The farmers of this part of the country, have hitherto been too much in the practise of putting off the principal part of their tillage, until the Spring months, which by obliging them to perform a great deal of work in a short time, not only oppresses their horses, but

in cases of wet and unfavourable weather, frequently throws them so much behind, that their crops are too late in putting into the ground, and the harvest of course protracted until the cold frosty nights, of the latter part of the Autumn, brings on a premature ripeness, and the grain is consequently defective both in quantity and quality.

The wheat crops continue to look well in most part of the country; and here it may not be amiss to call the attention of the cultivators of that valuable grain, to a practice, which for many years past, has prevailed amongst some of the most extensive farmers in England, and been adopted by several in this country, namely...harrowing, and rolling the wheat crops in Spring.

There are few farmers who have not observed that the frequent heavy rains in Winter so consolidate the soil, that when it dries in Spring, the surface is hard and crusted over, and rendered extremely unfavourable to the progress of the tender roots of the wheat, especially in clay soils. By breaking up this crust with the harrow, and afterwards passing the roller over it, the soil is made fine, and better prepared to afford the necessary nourishment to the young plants.

Those who have never seen this mode practised, may naturally conjecture that many of the roots will be destroyed by the action of the harrow, and it is not improbable that some of them may be lost; but they will find on making the experiment that the advantages resulting from it, will greatly overbalance any loss of that kind.

A single stroke of the harrow on every part of the ground, will be sufficient, and if any of the roots are loosened by it, the roller will remedy the injury.

Wheat has advanced a little in price since last report. Barley has fallen about two shillings per hundred weight, and oats have been stationary. Should liberty be granted to the distilleries to work, the latter will no doubt experience a rise.

COMMERCIAL REPORT.

It has become a practice with the writers who are predetermined to advocate the cause of things as they are, to speak in high terms of our commercial state. Unable to find topics for praise in our expeditions, or in our political relations, they lavish encomiums on our flourishing trade, as a set off against the dark shades of our situation. Let us meet them on their own ground, and inquire how far these mighty boasts are realized. The trade we are allowed with almost the entire continent of Europe is carried on by stealth, or the precarious connivance of the Autocrat of France. Trade is turned into a system of smuggling, and our manufactures are sometimes clandestinely carried into the continent, through our commercial depots at Heligoland, and a few other points, to which, by our naval superiority we have yet access. Russia still permits, by an artful policy for her own benefit, her articles to be exported; but as few importations are made from us, and the wisdom of our Orders in Council prevents the Americans from sending supplies to the continent, from which source they formerly had a fund to pay for our manufactures taken by them, the balance of trade is considerably against us, and a most disadvantageous rate of exchange is the consequence. Thus we may perceive the interruption of our trade with America produces the double inconvenience of excluding our manufactures from the North American Continent, and of withdrawing a fund whence our importations from the Continent of Europe were formerly conveniently paid. Indeed, with the United States of North America, matters are rapidly getting worse. A bullying Negotiator is sent out to reproach the Americans with not using a *tone sufficiently high* against the encroachments of France on their trade, and as a specimen of the kind of language he recommends, he becomes the great exemplar of a high tone, and uses such language in his letters, as a free state cannot with honour bear. The negotiation is thus broken off, and the difficulties of our situation, both commercial and political are increased by the probability of the American States being forced into the great master-roll of our enemies. It is fashionable doctrine to despise the efforts of the Americans, but let us not be too confident; they formerly asserted the independence of their constitution, and there is a strong probability they are in the present crisis capable of vindicating the independence of their trade, and the rights of neutrals. Great Britain may once more regret her haughty rejection of conciliatory measures.

South America presents great obstacles to our trade with them. Even our friends, the old Court of Portugal, are shy of allowing us to share in the trade of the Brazils, and the Spanish settlements exercise their hereditary and inveterate prejudices against freely admit-

ting us into their harbours, and their prejudices have received additional confirmation, and almost justification from the marauding expeditions unjustly and impolitically undertaken against them at a recent period.

Denmark also remembers the unjust attack on Copenhagen, and, if yielding to the necessities of Norway, she allows a short respite of trade for three months to that quarter, she quickly withdraws her licence, and leaves us to suffer again from the effects of our intemperate conduct, and of her just resentment.

At home our prospect is sufficiently dreary. The want of timber paralyzes our efforts for improvement. The linen trade, at least regarding the finer branches, is in a state of unexampled depression. An unjustifiable speculation, and want of flax-seed, have essentially injured it, and our cotton trade is far from being in a flourishing and settled state, but is subject to all the fluctuations which usually mark a trade not permanently established. The large capitalists, the successful speculators, forming the commercial aristocracy, have gained, and among them, and their less successful imitators luxury has increased, but the condition of the middling classes is not bettered. In this province the manufacturers and smaller farmers had indeed advanced; yet their prosperity during the last year has by no means kept pace with their previous state of improvement. The high price of flax has materially decreased their profits, and among the poorer classes, at least, produced much distress. The manufacturers of linsens have had during the last year, much less profit than usual, notwithstanding the high prices of linen. But in the estimate of the wealth of a country, such circumstances are overlooked by the man who views only the pinnacle and not the base of the pyramid.

In England, the increased poor-rates, and the number of claimants for the jubilee bounty in some places equaling the half of the population, mark the pressure of the times.

Are these facts proofs of our permanent commercial prosperity? or rather do they not prove that "our boasted good is but plethoric ill?" But we are not so unjust as to deny but in some respects our condition is bettered. Yet this improvement may rather be considered to have taken place, not in consequence of the wisdom of our rulers, but may tend to demonstrate that unwise management cannot altogether repress the energies of a people. A healthy constitution may survive, and even to a certain degree thrive, notwithstanding the injudicious efforts of empiricism; but as to any cause of rejoicing, or felicitating ourselves on our present situation, the judicious and reflecting who examine beneath the surface, will seriously ask, where are the stable grounds of prosperity?

It may be satisfactory to state, for the information of our readers, on a subject of internal policy, that there appears an error in a statement which lately appeared in the public papers, that the bakers in Ireland are compellable to take an oath of office, as to the ingredients which they put into their bread. An act for this purpose passed in 1787, was renewed in 1788, re-enacted in 1795, revived in 1803, and finally expired in 1807. Since this period there appears no farther enactment. The principle of compelling oaths of office is bad. Conscience ought not to be ensnared by setting positive engagements and interest in opposition. It is sufficient to punish when an improper action is committed.

Large importations of flax-seed, flax, and hemp have been made into London, during the last year, much more considerable than in the three preceding years; besides the importations into Leith, Hull, and the other ports in Great Britain convenient for the East country trade. We subjoin a table of the imports of these articles into London for the last four years. By this account we may perceive the great increase during the last year; and it is further to be noted that by far the greater part of the importation in 1809 took place within the last six months. A large fleet has also since arrived from the Baltic.

	1806	1807	1808	1809
Flax-seed, "	56,870,bbds.	68,400hhds.	19,000hhds.	216,400hhds.
Flax,	2,000 tons.	2,900 tons.	5,000 tons.	27,092 tons.
Hemp,	12,300 do.	17,300 do.	11,600 do.	48,996 do.

This statement has a tendency to lessen the fears of a deficiency of flax-seed for next Spring's sowing, and of a scarcity of flax and hemp for the purposes of our manufactures. We may reasonably expect a portion of these articles will reach this country, to reduce the prices, and keep the speculators in check.

In our home markets, flax is considerably advanced, owing to the deficiency of last year's crop, which failed in many places, particularly in the counties of Tyrone, Cavan and Monaghan. Foreign flax, in small parcels, is offered to sale in the flax market at Newry, and there is reason to expect its use may become general to supply the deficiency of our own crop.

In consequence of intimations in the papers, that it is in prospect with the Irish Chancellor of the Exchequer to try again in the present session to remove the restriction off distillation from grain, fears are revived that this measure may improperly raise the price of provisions both in this country and in England, while we are cut off from a prospect of foreign supplies. It would be a national advantage, both as to morals and revenue, if a stop were put to illicit distillation.

It is stated in the English papers, that a Jew has been committed for trial, on the prosecution of the Solicitor of the mint for buying guineas at a premium of 1s. 6d. per piece.—If this information is correct, the issue must be interesting, especially to us in this part of the country who have been for so many years in the open practice of buying and selling guineas. The trade is yet new in England, and the traffic not openly avowed, but the necessity of the times will tend soon to reconcile them to these transactions, as whenever guineas are wanted, they will probably bear a premium in comparison with bank notes.

Exchange on London has latterly advanced, being about $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent for notes, and $7\frac{1}{2}$ for guineas. Discount on notes is also a little advanced, being about $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 per cent. Discount on Dublin bills is still under the rate of legal interest.

MEDICAL REPORT.

*List of Diseases occurring in the practice of a Physician in Belfast, from
December 20, 1809, till January 20, 1810.*

Barometer....highest - - - - -	30 0	Thermometer....highest - - - - -	53 0
mean - - - - -	29 0	mean - - - - -	41 0
lowest - - - - -	28 0	lowest - - - - -	30 0

Typhus, - - - - -	8	Common contagious fever.
Tubes mesenterica, -	1	Hectic fever, and wasting of the body, from diseased glands in the belly.
Ophthalmia, - - - - -	3	Inflammation of the eyes.
Cynanche, - - - - -	1	Quinsy.
Hepatitis, - - - - -	1	Inflammation of the liver.
Rheumatismus, - - - -	4	Acute rheumatism.
Arthrodynia, - - - - -	2	Chronic rheumatism.
Rubeola, - - - - -	1	Measles.
Scarlatina, - - - - -	6	Scarlet fever.
Hæmoptysis, - - - - -	1	Spitting of blood.
Phthisis, - - - - -	3	Consumption.
Catarrhus, - - - - -	4	Common cold.
Dysenteria, - - - - -	1	Bloody flux.
Dyspepsia, - - - - -	2	Indigestion, with flatulence of the stomach.
Palpitatio cordis, - -	1	Palpitation of the heart.
Asthma, - - - - -	4	Asthma.
Hysteria, - - - - -	1	Hysterics.
Scrophula, - - - - -	6	Evil.
Icterus, - - - - -	1	Jaundice.
Anosmia organica, -	1	An imperfect sense of smelling.
Aphonia catarrhalis, -	1	Loss of voice from a cold.
Psora, - - - - -	2	Itch.
Herpes, - - - - -	4	Ringworm, or tetter.
Syphilis, } - - - -	8	Venereal disease.
Gonorrhœa, }		
Morbi Infantiles, -	16,	Febrile and bowel complaints of children.

The increase of contagious and scarlet fevers in the last month, if not sufficient to excite alarm, ought at least to rouse in us a spirit of vigilance and observation that we may be enabled to arrest the progress of either, as far as the present improved state of medical science enables us. The great frequency of colds, and the danger of their terminating badly, particularly where there is a pre-disposition to consumption, induces us to make the following observations, for the use of general readers: a cold at first is nothing but an increased secretion of the mucous membrane that lines the nose and passage to the lungs, and which is usually produced by sudden exposure of the body, from a very warm to a cold temperature, or by the long continuance in a cold and damp atmosphere, without being previously very warm; this new or increased action of these membranes may be suspended or destroyed by such remedies as are capable of exciting a powerful and con-

closed action in some other part, on which principle emetics should be given in small doses, so as to produce nausea, and be repeated frequently till the disease yields to their use. In persons of a good constitution, it ceases spontaneously, in from eight or ten days, till a month, but if it should continue longer, we ought to use the most active remedies for its removal, for we are taught by observation, that the oftener people have been attacked with a cold, the more readily they are affected by it, and that the longer it has continued, the more difficult it is to be removed: the case of loss of voice from cold, in our list, is attended with some curious circumstances: the subject of it, can, at intervals, speak as when in health, nor is it accompanied with any pain, and the pulse is very little, if at all increased in frequency.

NATURALISTS' REPORT.

From December 20, 1809, till January 20, 1810.

Happy the man possessed of ancient groves,
Happier who plants his trees, while time improves,
And forms their beauties to reward his care,
He like great Cyrus cries "I placed them there."

DE LILLE'S GARDEN.

THERE are few people in whose breasts the desire of beholding the country and its scenery is totally extinguished, whether it is instinctive or habitual it is impossible to trace, some have gone so far as to say, that it is derived from the pleasure which our first parents enjoyed, ere disobedience drove them from Paradise; certain it is however, that the green robe of nature conveys to the imagination pleasures of which all are desirous to participate, and as that exquisite painter of simple scenery, Cowper, expresses it, if they can no otherwise enjoy the sight of green they will plant a sprig of mint in an old tea-pot. "Happier who plants his trees" and beholds them grow with that healthy vigour, which shows each placed in its proper soil and situation; but without attention to their natural characters continual mistakes will be the consequence, attended with stunted and unhealthy growth. The spongy roots of the alder penetrate the marshy soil; the wide spreading roots of the larch extending over a great space of dry sandy ground, receive abundant nourishment where few others would thrive, while the elm with closely entangled roots grows with luxuriance only in the richest loam, and the oak, whose deeply penetrating roots were early noticed by planters, grows only to advantage in earth where its roots are not impeded in their descent. From these examples it may be seen how necessary the study of natural characters are to ensure to the planter success, and as the season for planting is at hand, to direct him who wishes with "their beauties to reward his care."

During this dreary season the observations of the Naturalist are very limited; without his attention is directed to the study of Cryptogamic plants, there is little to interest.

December, 22, Thrush (*Turdus Musicus*) singing.

25, Common Wren (*Sylvia Troglodytes*) singing.

27, Thrushes singing.

January 2, 1810. Common Wren, and Robin Redbreast (*Sylvia Rubecula*) singing.

3, Mistletoe Thrush (*Turdus Viscivorus*) singing. This bird no doubt was once plentiful in Ireland, but for many years they were unknown and it is only within these five or six years, they have been observed, adding their song to cheer the naked groves.

Sparrows (*Fringilla Domestica*) assembling about their nesting holes, and making considerable noise.

12, Robin Redbreast, singing.

14, A large flock of Wild Geese flying to the Southward.

19, Wren singing.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

From December 20 1809, till January 20, 1810.

To prognosticate the weather which immediately ensues from Meteorological appearances has been attempted from the most remote periods of antiquity, but it is only since a more correct knowledge of astronomical periods has been acquired that philosophers have observed a correspondence between certain seasons. Mr. Toaldo supposes that the seasons correspond with one another every 19 years, or lunar period, in confirmation of this theory.

a great resemblance may be observed between the month of December 1790 and December 1809, January 1791 and the present month, which has been often remarkably pleasant although uncommonly changeable.

Decem. 21,	Rain.
22,	A trifling shower.
23,	Showery.
24, 25,	Wet days.
26,	Showery.
27,	Fine clear dry day.
28,	A slight shower.
29,	Stormy, with rain.
30,	Wet.
31,	Showery.
January 1,	Slight showers.
2,	Dry, pleasant.
3,	Slight rain.
4, 6,	Fine dry days.
7,	Heavy rain.
8,	Showery.
9, 10,	Clear and dry.
11,	Stormy and wet.
12,	Showery.
13,	Wet morning, dry day.
14,	Cold and dry.
15,	Frost, with a fall of snow about 1½ inch deep.
16,	Dark frosty day.
17,	Clear frosty day.
18,	Showery.
19,	Dry and frosty.
20,	Wet.

The range of the barometer has been trifling, only four times as low as 29.5, and mostly about 30, seldom one tenth above it.

The thermometer has been continually fluctuating in the mornings between 27½, which it was on the 19th of January, and 50 which it was on the 1st and 4th of January; indeed it was scarcely two mornings near the same temperature.

The highest at which the thermometer was observed at 2 P.M. was 53 on the 1st of January, the lowest 30 on the 15th of the same month.

The prevalent winds have been S.W. which was 18 times, it was observed also N.W. 2; S.E. 6; E. 2; N.E. 3 times.

CELESTIAL PHENOMENA.

FOR FEBRUARY, 1810.

On the 1st the Moon rises at 36 min. past 5 A.M. and sets at 48 min. past 1 P.M. hence she will not be visible, except for a short time in the morning.

3, The new Moon will be seen in the evening towards the w.s.w. having near, but above her, the four stars in the triangle of the Water-pot, and below her Mercury, and the eighth of the Water-bearer, above her is Mars, and at a considerable distance higher up, Jupiter. Thus three planets, with the Moon, decorate the western hemisphere, and her passage by two of them will naturally fix our attention.

10, She is on our meridian at 19 min. past 5, having directly under her Menkar, or the first star of the Whale, the three first stars of the Ram being to the west, as the Pleiades are at nearly an equal distance to the east of the meridian; at 9, she is 64° 18' from the second of the Twins.

15, She is on the meridian at 16 min. past 9, being near the middle of the Triangle, formed by the third, the first and the second of the Twins, and the first and second of the little Dog. The third of the Twins being to the west, the other stars, to the east of the meridian; at 9 she is 40° 32' from the first of the Lion, and 39° 20' from Aldebaran.

30, She rises nearly at the same time with the second of the Lion; the first being at a considerable distance above her, and her course is directed to the twentieth of the Lion, which suffers an occultation before she sets, this takes place the following morning, a little after 5; the star emerges a little before six.

27, She rises 25 min. past 2 A.M. and is soon after followed by Saturn and the stars in the Scorpion.

Mercury is an evening star during the former, and a morning star, during the latter part of this month. His inferior conjunction takes place on the 16th.

Venus is a morning star, but so low at sun-rise, that she will be seen but by few.—Her motion is direct. On the first she is under the two first stars of the Goat, and proceeds to a point under the four stars in the triangle of the Water-pot, but does not reach its stream.

Mars is an evening star and may be seen in the upper part of the lower region, at his first appearance on the 1st, to the west of the south-west; but his duration above the horizon after Sun-set decreases, though slowly, every night. The Moon passes him on the 6th.

Jupiter is on the meridian at 16 min. past 4 on the 1st, and at 16 min. past 3 on the 19th, of course we shall have sufficient opportunity of making observations on this beautiful and largest of the planets. The Moon passes him on the 23d.

Saturn is a morning star, being on the meridian at 51 min. past 7 in the morning of the 1st, and earlier every succeeding morning; his motion is direct through $1\frac{1}{2}$ degrees in the Milky way, under the right leg of the Serpent-bearer. Antares with the second of the Scorpion, are to the west of him. The Moon passes him on the 27th.

Herschell is stationary on the 15th, and of course his motion for some time, both before and after that day will be scarcely perceptible. It is first direct and then retrograde. The Moon passes him on the 25th.

ECLIPSES OF JUPITER'S SATELLITES.

1st SATELLITE.				2d SATELLITE.				3d SATELLITE.							
<i>Emissions.</i>															
DAYS.	H.	M.	S.	DAYS.	H.	M.	S.	DAYS.	H.	M.	S.	DAYS.	H.	M.	S.
1	19	0	0	2	12	59	29 Im	6	0	51	35 Im.				
3	13	28	55	2	15	16	8 E.	6	2	56	31 E.				
5	7	57	59	6	2	17	28 Im	13	4	53	58 Im.				
7	2	26	55	6	4	34	3 E.	13	6	58	27 E.				
8	20	55	59				<i>Emissions.</i>	20	8	56	8 Im.				
10	15	24	53	9	17	51	59	20	11	0	6 E.				
12	9	53	57	13	7	9	54	27	12	58	18 Im.				
14	4	22	52	16	20	27	46	27	15	1	47 E.				
15	22	51	55	20	9	45	40								
17	17	20	49	23	23	3	32								
19	11	49	52	27	12	21	22								

Look to the right hand.*

* First Satellite Continued.			
21	6	18	45
23	0	47	48
24	19	16	40
26	13	45	43
28	8	14	35

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. W. E. will perceive on reflection, that to enter on the species of discussion, which he requires relative to his verses, would extend this article to pages, if made general. No other translation of *L'Enfant de Venus*, has been received, but that inserted in this number; it is therefore supposed that a letter of J. W. E.'s, has miscarried; if he will send another copy, it shall be considered comparatively with the above. The epigram to A. K. was rejected, principally for defective rhymes; "charm," cannot be rhyme to "form," no more than "change" can to "tinge," which we took the liberty to alter in his verses to Kitty. The other verses were rejected because the Proprietors did not perceive they contained any thing to entitle them to a preference; please to see the first article to Correspondents in No 17. The person addressed by J. W. E. thanks him for the good opinion of his compositions, but imagines he is mistaken as to the insertions which he supposes to be his, as he writes nothing for the political department, and in that which he furnishes regularly, any attempt at the "classical," elegant, and "energetic," would be absurd. He will thank J. W. E. to gratify his curiosity, by mentioning what he supposes to be his signatures in his other papers; and also to send him his address, if he shall again think such long explanations necessary relative to his communications.

The song for the anniversary of St. Andrew; the verses to Maria of the Cottage; X. X. on the character of Bonaparte; and L's thoughts suggested by reading certain lines in Hervey's Contemplations, are not thought suitable to the Magazine, by the proprietors.

We return thanks to the "Friend to civil and religious liberty," for the good opinion he has expressed of the work; and are sorry his paper cannot be admitted.

Directions have been given for performing what Kevicam has desired.

Letters signed H. S. Carrickfergus; J. W. E. Rathelam; Peregrine; N. Lambeg; Mirkhond; S. Ballymena; C. Belfast, Anglica; Y. R. Dublin; Un Emigre Francois; Lydia's Ode to Winter; Esword's three poems; and the third part of Sainclair, with other favours, have been received and shall be submitted to the consideration of the proprietors.

Erratum.....In the note at bottom of the 48th page, 8th line, read "the days of the week and of the months."

THE
BELFAST MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

No. 19.]

FEBRUARY 28, 1810.

[Vol. 4.]

COMMUNICATIONS, ORIGINAL AND SELECTED.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

REMARKS ON A PASSAGE OF ADDISON.

GENTLEMEN,
THOUGH I have been always disposed to respect great names, and pay to genius and learning that deference, to which they are justly entitled, yet I have always endeavoured to guard against the impropriety of receiving the opinions even of those who are most celebrated for their understanding and wisdom, with undistinguishing approbation. In short, I have on all occasions, made it a point, to judge for myself; and to be exceeding tenacious of what I conceived on mature reflection, to be the right view of any subject notwithstanding that I found very great authorities to be against me.

With such a disposition, I have often reflected on a passage of our admired Addison, in one of his papers in the spectator; and though I have lately considered it with attention, I still retain those sentiments of disapprobation, which originally impressed themselves on my mind; perhaps a few words expressive of my sentiments on the subject may not be uninteresting to some of your readers.

In No. 106, he introduces an account of Sir Roger de Coverley's Chaplain, towards the close of which he represents the Knight as giving him this information concerning him. "At his first settling with me, I made him a present of all the good sermons which have been printed in English, and only begged of him, that every Sunday he would pronounce one of them in the pulpit. Accordingly he has digested them into such a series, that they follow one another naturally, and make a continued system of practical divinity." *BELFAST MAG. NO. XIX.*

ing gone to hear him preach, and being greatly pleased with the performance, he concludes the paper with the following observations: "I could heartily wish, that more of our country clergy would follow this example; and instead of wasting their spirits in laborious compositions of their own, would endeavour after a handsome elocution, and all those other talents, that are proper to enforce what has been penned by greater masters. This would not only be more easy to themselves, but more edifying to the people."

I have no objection that those who desire to enter into the sacerdotal office, should endeavour to improve themselves in elocution. On the contrary, I consider this as a very necessary accomplishment; and while so much pains are taken by lawyers, senators, and even stage players, to acquire an elegant and impressive manner of delivery, it is a shame and disgrace, that those who prepare themselves for the discharge of the sacred functions, should in general pay so little attention to this subject. Are the matters of which they treat of less importance? And is it fitting that less care and attention should be employed to recommend the momentous subjects of religion, and immortality, to the respect and acceptance of mankind?

But to the other sentiments in the above extract, I strongly object. I do not approve of a preacher's confining himself closely to a system, and for this reason, that *occasional* discourses are often very proper, and calculated to have a very good effect upon the minds of the people. As it is right for men in general to pay respect to the various dispensations of divine providence, so it is I conceive, the duty of a minister of religion to impress

a sense of their important and interesting nature on the minds of the people. Such well-timed suggestions, are fitted to have a more abiding and affecting influence than the most elaborate discourses on ordinary topics. Add to this, that it is unquestionably a pastor's duty, continually to advert to the state of the society over which he presides; and to adopt his discourses to the exigencies of his flock. He is to meet the prevailing vices of the times, by seasonable admonitions and exhortations. He is as it were to keep his hand always extended over his people, that he may protect them from the shafts of infidelity, the unhallowed rage of fanatics, the contagion of bad example, and every other evil that might endanger their peace, virtue, and happiness. Now, it is obvious, that this pastoral care cannot possibly be manifested by a minister, who year after year delivers the same round of discourses, be they ever so well selected and harmonized into system.

Again, the view which Mr. Addison gives us of the chaplain's labours as a preacher, furnishes us with a very low and mean idea of the pastoral office, and not at all correspondent with the representations of scripture on this head. The apostolic writings represent the preaching of the gospel as a matter of great labour and exertion, and that demanded the full exercise of the mental energies; whereas in Mr. Addison's view any man who can purchase the best sermons can, if he have a good aspect and clear voice, fully discharge without giving himself any farther trouble than that of copying, all pulpit duties, agreeably to the instructions of scripture. In my mind, such indolence and sluggishness are utterly unworthy of the ministerial character. It is necessary for every person diligently to study the doctrines of religion, and surely much more is this incumbent on a minister of the gospel. Let him avail himself of the assistance of commentators and divines, but let him realize for himself the principles of religion, and show to the people the fruits of his labours. Thus it is probable he will preach with more warmth, energy, and ef-

fect. It is impossible I should suppose, for a man to deliver the compositions of others with the same earnestness and fervour, as those which have proceeded from his own exertions. To interest a discerning audience, a man must speak with feeling. His words must flow,

“ Warm from the heart, and to the heart addressed.”

and how shall this be done so effectually, by a speaker, as when the subject is his own, when his heart glows with a generous enthusiasm, when his mind is full of light, and his imagination fired, by the impressive theme? It is not enough that he who discourses on the divine subject of religion should only *seem* to feel. He *must* feel, if he be sincere, and have a proper apprehension of the importance of the pastoral office.

It will be said, that there are many who are so unskilful in composing, that it is more for the edification of their people for them to read the compositions of others. To this I answer, that he who cannot compose discourses, that are calculated to promote edification and improvement, is utterly unqualified for the pastoral office: just as no one would imagine that physician acquainted with his profession, who prescribed to his patients merely from the knowledge, and upon the authority of others. A minister who knows not how to address his people from the information of his own mind, is unworthy of the sacred office, and should not presume to preach the gospel. It is impossible he can acquit himself in a manner creditable to himself, or advantageous to his people.

But what then is to become of those who are at present in holy orders, and have to lament their deficiency in this respect? I am disposed to think, that their inability to compose good or interesting discourses, arises chiefly from their want of study, attention, and application. The remedy therefore is, be more studious and diligent in future; avail yourselves of the best helps to composition; compose often and with care; be indefatigable in your exertions; and by studying the best models, you can scarcely fail to arrive at least

at mediocrity, in this most necessary accomplishment. It is very disgusting to hear men who have had good opportunities, say they cannot compose. The truth is, they will not take the trouble to compose. A good style of composition is not to be attained by one effort; it is the effect of repeated attempts, and persevering exertions.

I doubt not but Mr. Addison's sentiments have operated with many of our clergy, who might have made a very respectable figure as preachers, on their own foundation, and from the resources of their own minds. Borrowing this sentiment from such high authority, men who might have figured in the republic of letters, and been ornaments to true religion, have perhaps slumbered away their days in listless inactivity and ease. Let candidates for the ministry beware of such examples. Let them only know them, that they may guard against their pernicious influence; let them understand that they must store their minds with useful knowledge, and prepare themselves to preach their own discourses to the people, if they desire to fill their situations with credit, and faithfully to discharge one important branch of the duties of the christian ministry. I am, &c.

BENEVOLUS.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

Account of an apparatus for teaching arithmetic to children, experienced to be of much benefit.

THE mechanical apparatus for teaching arithmetic before writing, is as follows.

Twelve printed figures of each of the digits, and of cyphers, are pasted to wooden tablets, of one inch in length, $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch in breadth, and $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch in thickness, with a projecting peg from the centre of the tablet. The tablets are of birch, turned and cut to the above shape. A mahogany board on ledges, is pierced with 144 holes, which receive the pegs of the tablets, so that their edges nearly touch. The centres of four of these holes are the corners of a rectangle, a little larger than one of the tablets. The board rests on a table,

The tablets are disposed separately in ten boxes on the right and left of the board. It is obvious that addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, can be conveniently learned by such a table, provided the examples do not run to a great number of places. By such a table a child can readily acquire a practical knowledge of the rules it learns. He may begin by setting down the numbers in the natural series, and in columns of tens. Then he may proceed to learn addition practically, thus; let the question be, what is the sum of two and three? he marks two holes in one column, and three in another, and then reckoning down one, and up another, he finds the sum 5. In a similar manner is subtraction performed; and in multiplication, let the question be, what is the product of two and three? he takes three columns of two, and reckoning them all over he finds the sum.



It would be easy to point out various advantages in this method, above that of getting the products by rote.

As to the improvement of this apparatus, I suppose the tablets may be conveniently reduced to half the linear magnitude, by this means four times as many tablets will be required, and computations may be extended to twice the number of places. The pierced board must not be much larger than I describe, otherwise the child's hands will not reach its extremities, and the farthest boxes of tablets conveniently. A similar plan might answer for teaching to spell.

We have been favoured with the account of the above apparatus for teaching arithmetic, by a gentleman of high and well deserved rank in the learned world, who has experienced it to be of the greatest utility in teaching his own children.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

SAINCLAIR,

Continued from p. 13, No. XVIII.

ABOUT this time Sainclair met with a young girl of the age of

fifteen, and of a charming figure, who pleased him so much, that he made inquiry about her. He learned, that she was, not actually at a convent, but at a very brilliant boarding school, which had been lately established. In order to examine her at his ease he went to a public examination, which took place at the school. But there he had the annoyance to see her crowned with pomp in presence of two hundred spectators. She obtained the first prize in geography: she was applauded with transport, much more for her beautiful figure, than her knowledge. She received these proofs of admiration with grace, but in the manner of a person accustomed to produce such effects. Heavens! exclaimed Sainclair to himself, so young, and already familiarised to such glaring success! After having received so much brilliant homage, how is it possible, she can hereafter rest contented with the simple approbation of a husband! This coronation however was followed by a scene, that touched Sainclair. Immediately after the applauses had ceased, all the companions of the successful candidate, got up, and ran to throw themselves into her arms; they embraced her repeatedly, and with a good grace, that charmed every one. Surely, said Sainclair, emulation and glory have not produced jealousy here. What a delightful spectacle!

After the distribution of the prizes, there was music. Sainclair happened to be beside a lady, near whom was one of the boarders, a child of about six or seven years old. Sainclair paid her a compliment on the graceful and feeling manner, with which she had embraced the young lady, who had been crowned. Oh yes, replied she, we practised it a good deal this morning. Sainclair burst into a fit of laughter: the mother of the candid child was very much displeased with this indiscretion. Console yourself, madam, said Sainclair, this *dramatic* education will most assuredly correct all that is natural and unaffected. A little time after, Sainclair saw in a newspaper, this young lady, who had been crowned, spoken of for an act of *filial piety*, and the very same day he read her name in a printed

list of subscribers to a charitable purpose.

Sainclair already weary of Paris, went at the beginning of spring to pass a few days in the country. There he met a young widow, who paid him great attention, and succeeded in exciting in his mind a lively interest for her. Clotilda had a kind of celebrity, which found favour in Sainclair's eyes. She was spoken of in her own circle as a woman of the greatest feeling. Every thing excited her sensibility, friendship, the arts, the spectacle of nature: the reading of a play caused suffocation; and at one of the representations of *misanthropy and repentance* she was obliged to be carried out of her box. Her admiration of whatever kind it was, never was expressed without tears. She wept, the first time she saw the Apollo Belvidere: she wept, when she looked stedfastly at the moon: she wept, on hearing a musical instrument; and it was related of her, that having been at the opera at the first appearance of Vestris, she melted into tears on seeing him dance. It was quite a subject for wonder, that after having experienced such an incessant and lively agitation, she still possessed an excellent state of health, and that her eyes, condemned to perpetual weeping, far from being dimmed, were always so brilliant; in fine she herself depicted her sensibility, and spoke of her feelings with an eloquence, to which a very handsome face added a charm, that completed the seduction of Sainclair. When love has seized the heart, observation, reflection are no more: follies are but frequent singularities, the gross-est exaggeration appears but the heightening of a superior soul. Clotilda had lost her parents, when she was very young, and had had as guardian and governess a step-sister much older than herself; her gratitude to this sister appeared quite impassioned: it is true she neglected her very much, and scarcely ever saw her; but she spoke of her incessantly with a warmth and a sensibility, that quite transported Sainclair.

Madame D'Olmene, this so dearly cherished sister, was dying of a con-

sumption; and the feeling. Clotilda blinded herself in such a manner with respect to that circumstance, that she went into public, to fetes and spectacles, with a perfect security. Her friends shuddered, when they reflected, that in all likelihood she would learn at some ball the death of this object of her liveliest affection; no one had the cruelty to open her eyes; besides, what were the proper steps to undeceive her in this respect? The physicians had pronounced the fatal sentence; Clotilda could not be ignorant of it, but she persuaded herself, that the physicians were altogether mistaken; she trusted to nothing, but her own heart and her hopes. How amiable an error! what a dreadful blow she is about to receive!—and how will she be able to support it! She will certainly sink under it!! Such were the expressions of Clotilda's circle—but did their thoughts correspond? I should think not. In the world we are very rarely the dupes of affection; but we often pretend to be so in order to preserve an agreeable connection, or to excite admiration at our candour, or through malignity, in order to give others an opportunity of laughing at some ridiculous person, whom we are afraid of criticizing. Sainclair alone was sincere in his admiration of Clotilda; and he was perfectly so: he had never studied any female folly but pedantry and pretensions to wit; he had moreover passed his life in the country, and—he was in love: so that Clotilda, who set so high a value on this conquest, could have effected it at much less expense.

On the very day, the evening of which was appointed by Sainclair for his departure from a place rendered so agreeable to him by the presence of Clotilda, some visitors arrived, whose presence embarrassed him very much.

The Count de Montclair, his daughter, the charming Albina, and the Baroness de——, the Count's sister, arrived a little before supper. When Albina perceived Sainclair, she blushed so very highly, that he had not the smallest room to doubt, but that she knew of his having sought her hand. Although he had entirely given her

up, and thought himself in love with Clotilda, this idea gave him pleasure: it was pleasing to him to think, that at least she was not ignorant, that he would have preferred her to all her sex.

Just as the Count was entering the room, some one of the company was relating a moving account of an unfortunate family, who had retired to Passy, and had been recently ruined by a bankruptcy: the story, which had been interrupted by the Count's arrival, was resumed, and the detail of the dreadful misery of this unfortunate family interested the feelings of all in a lively manner. Frequently during the recital, Sainclair looked at Albina—not from any curiosity to observe the impression, she received—that he easily conjectured—but by a natural and instinctive movement, to find in her eyes the expression of what he experienced in himself.

He did not interrogate her: nor speak to her: secure before-hand of her answer, he always met her glances in the interesting moments; both moved by the same pity, were desirous of seeing it in each other, and of confiding it mutually: they formed no expectation of the like from those around them. This sweet sympathy of noble souls, which require not, that they should study each other in order to their being mutually known and understood is the first attraction of real love.

At the conclusion of the story, Clotilda, whom Sainclair had completely forgotten during half an hour, got up, and went out precipitately, a moment after it was announced, that Clotilda was unwell in the next room. The mistress of the house and two others of Clotilda's friends flew to her assistance; Sainclair followed them. They found Clotilda languidly extended in an arm-chair, her hair in disorder, and her head reclined upon a cushion; she assures them with an air of constraint, that she is well—very well: to the lively interest, they show, she answers like a person, who was troubled with inquiries; she at length acknowledges that it was the history of the unfortunate family, which had made her

so dreadfully ill. She adds; that she feels it is a weakness, and that she would fain hide it. Had they not seen that?—had she not left the room by stealth? She concluded by saying, as if to excuse herself, that in truth she had been very unwell from the morning. The whole was played with the natural air of a consummate actress. Her friends were perfectly well aware of it, but Sainclair entertained not the smallest suspicion. Clotilda, with an effort, got up, and entered the room, leaning on Sainclair, who was a little embarrassed at his re-appearance, conducting Clotilda thus. He sought the eyes of Albina; she turned her back to him; he spoke, that she might hear him; Albina did not turn back her head! The company sat to table; Sainclair placed himself beside Clotilda, and found himself opposite to Albina; but no more sympathizing looks; Albina appearing to chat very gaily with those near her, did not once look at Sainclair. In vain did he offer her a part of whatever was placed before him; Albina constantly refused in a dry tone, and with an inattentive air, without casting her eyes upon him; so that at length this worthy young man was very much offended. Modest, timid people are often deficient in address. Self-love has such delicacy of touch, that it never loses any thing of what flatters it. A fop, in Sainclair's place, would have easily seen in Albina's conduct a mixture of marked vexation; he would have conjectured, that during his absence from the room she had heard his love for Clotilda spoken of. But Sainclair saw in the behaviour of Albina nothing but a disobliging dryness; and he became displeased. Clotilda eat nothing, and said repeatedly to Sainclair, she was sure of being ill for two or three days. Sainclair believed her: but as he was not much disposed to admire her, this excess of sensibility appeared to him that evening no other than an alarming defect of organization.

After supper the friends of Clotilda surrounded her with an air of tender interest; they pretended to observe, that she was pale and changed, and

on the whole they completely seconded her views. Good offices of this kind are always repaid upon occasion, and it is this, which, among women of a certain description, constitutes all the security of society; on other occasions, they betray each other; they slander, they calumniate, but they never ridicule these important measures; as it would be equivalent to an interdicting of them in their own case.

Late at night as Sainclair was in a sorrowful mode, preparing to depart, a person came into the room, and told him in the presence of the whole company, that his coachman was dead drunk. Good! replied Sainclair; that is his way, and it never hinders him from driving me very safely. It was objected, that the night was dark, the road bad, and that he would have to drive an entire league on a narrow road between two deep lakes. Sainclair persisted. Albina, till that moment silent, then speaking of a sudden, "surely," said she, with a voice of emotion, "this poor coachman in such a situation, may fall from his seat and be killed! I think, humanity alone ought!"—Here the Count de Montclair looked at his daughter; she blushed and was silent. Sainclair was exceedingly piqued at finding, that Albina was concerned only of the danger the coachman might be in; and, that, besides, she accused him of being deficient in humanity; he answered with sharpness, that if there was any danger for his coachman, he would share it. Clotilda and all the ladies opposed the departure of Sainclair, who, still displeased with Albina, consented at last to remain, but appeared to yield only from a wish to please Clotilda. In a short time after Count de Montclair and his daughter departed. The party still sat up: Sainclair was gloomy and absent, his sadness was attributed to his uneasiness about Clotilda's health, and he retired to bed, very much displeased with the evening, and particularly so with himself.

The next day he went away after dinner: when he got to Paris, he found himself without employment,

and quite wearied. One morning, the account of the wretched ruined family occurred to him, and he wished to see them. He went to Passy, and inquired for Madame Morin's house; he was conducted to it. On his entering the court yard, he saw a carriage, and recognized the Montclair livery! In much emotion, he was going up stairs, supposing, he should have to go to the uppermost story; but he was told, that two days before, the family had taken possession of a better apartment on the second floor, which had been suitably furnished through the care of a charming young lady. He did not ask her name; but he recollected her glances, and said to himself, ah, how touching and sincere is her pity!

He was at the door of the new apartment, not determined now, whether he ought to enter; for it is easy to accost people, who are in extreme distress, without being announced; but when people are no longer so, then some pretext is necessary—and then he should find Albina there, who would not fail to think, that he came too late!—While he was hesitating, the door opened, and Albina, followed by her governess appeared—He remained immovable; Albina showed some surprise; afterwards she saluted him, and passed rapidly by. How beautiful she appeared!—How much grace in her unstudied dress, as she descended the small dark staircase! she looked back once, and saw Sainclair still at the door, and following her with his eyes, she disappeared.

When Sainclair could no longer see her, he listened—he heard the carriage drive from the court, and he started.—He resolves on seeing Madame Morin; from her he would hear some thing of Albina. On ringing a bell, a servant came to the door, and brought him in: there he found Madame Morin, not as she had been described, in a wretched unfurnished room, but in an apartment, which though small, was very neat and convenient. He approached her respectfully, and said, that having learned her misfortunes, he came to offer her his services. Madame Morin thanked him and replied, that she had

nothing more to wish for; that Count de Montclair, inspired, guided by his angelic daughter, was become a most generous protector, that an annuity secured to her an honest support. 'I have three daughters, she continued, Mademoiselle de Montclair has taken one of them with her, whom she treats as a companion, she has placed another in a convent, the abbess of which is an aunt of her own, and I have only the youngest with me. Madame Montclair ordered this apartment to be furnished. There is generosity! But what is still above all these kindnesses, is the delicate goodness of Mademoiselle; gratitude itself cannot describe it—if you could know, sir, what her attentions are, and what friendship she testifies for me—how she forgets herself talking here with me!

While Madame Morin was speaking, Sainclair, exceedingly softened, considered with much interest the furniture of the little room: he guessed, which were the peculiar gifts of Albina, this pretty set of breakfast china, this little work-basket, this tambour frame, the canary bird, the box filled with flowers, were surely not any of the Count's presents. With inexpressible trouble he recognized the hand of a beneficent female, the hand of Albina!! The seduction of talents and beauty may be combated by reason, but what can be opposed to the enchantment produced by the union of youth, grace, and virtue? we even applaud ourselves for the enthusiasm, we experience.

Sainclair was drawn from his reverie by hearing Madame Morin say, that Albina was to go to the country in less than a fortnight, and to remain there till her marriage. This word made Sainclair start: he heaved a deep sigh, and took leave of Madame Morin. As he considered, that his visits might prevent the visits of Albina, he took a polite method of mentioning, as he was going, that he would not return. The next day he sent Madame Morin a handsome table ornamented with the rarest flowers. The person, he had commissioned to send it, was ignorant of his name; but it was easily guessed.

It was indispensable for Sainclair to dissipate his thoughts: he revisited Clotilda, who by her manners and conduct succeeded in persuading him, that she had a great passion for him: she was charming, and Sainclair soon arrived at discarding Albina from his memory.

Sainclair however did not engage himself; he did not even declare his sentiments; he perceived in Clotilda an impassioned taste for a talent, that caused him some uneasiness. Clotilda was a painter, and one of great ambition; she did not amuse herself with painting flowers; she composed mythological subjects in oil colours; and pretended to an equality in this with the most celebrated women.

To be Continued.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

GENTLEMEN,
A CRITIQUE signed N on the narrative entitled Scotch law and politeness, having been inserted in your magazine for December, and some insinuations not altogether just thrown out, I request permission to make a few additional observations through the medium of your useful publication. N. is kind enough to say, that narrative in question deserves notice for two or three particulars, that it is deserving of any attention from a person of N's evident literary acquirements, is particularly flattering to the author, and in gratitude he is bound to permit N. to change that part of the title (politeness) with which he finds fault, and to substitute brutality, vulgarity, ignorance or any other word he may conceive more applicable. Mr. C. and party have been indirectly accused of a want of forbearance, and of the milk of human kindness—and N. has stated they might have saved themselves much trouble by sending or going to the person first engaged, to inquire into the cause of his delay: granted, and by acting so they might have (what perhaps is of more consequence to N.) saved the character of the Scotch magistrates, but unfortunately they were not acquainted with the driver's

place of residence, and if they had it was not their duty to send; they waited two hours beyond the appointed time; and surely the driver might have sent to inform them if he had got the tooth ache, or his horses the bots. As to a want of the milk of human kindness, I can assure N. Mr. C. has evinced by many actions that he is not wanting in it, but possesses it in a superior degree; and with respect to a want of forbearance, I am convinced N. himself will think with me, there was no want of that quality when I inform him that no legal process was instituted against those magistrates for their brutal conduct; and that Mr. C. still permits them to hold their commissions of the peace!!!

N. appears much offended with the magistrate who ordered the gentleman to wait in the rain whilst he eat his breakfast (though it is evident he was much less to blame than the one who granted the order) and I feel much distress that N. to show his ire is obliged to have recourse to a stale pun on the word justice; punning is much beneath a man of talent, but an old one used as one's own is still more beneath him. I cannot conclude without observing that in publishing the narrative alluded to, I meant not the lightest reflection on the Scotch nation. I have resided some years in Scotland, and entertain a high respect for, and opinion of a number of its inhabitants. I consider Scotland as a rich garden, containing like all other gardens, a number of weeds; but surely the improper conduct of a few individuals cannot fix a stigma on any country.

H.S.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

REPLY TO H. S. BY N.

SIR,
I HAVE been long since as well convinced as you can be of the folly of giving advice gratis; and therefore want little to be said to show me my error on the present occasion: had I been as well informed as I am now, I should on the contrary have asked advice, but

Nemo omnibus horis sapit.

And unfortunately my *horae sapientiae* are not too numerous.

Your mention of my "evident literary acquisitions," must be answered something in the same way, that the beautiful Mrs. F——n replied to some compliments on her wit, from the late duke of Rutland, when she said: "*Faith my lord duke I believe it is a humbugging me that you are.*" I know not indeed any pretensions I have to be a literary character except what caused the old complaint of my worthy mother so often. "N.N. can I never get you to be orderly? why will you always keep your things in such a litter?"

And now I surrender to you at discretion good sir, on all other matters but one; and there you have touched me on a tender point, where yield I cannot, if I would. Punning is so delectable and natural an exercise to me; that if restrained in it, I find all my functions directly disordered; my diaphragm becomes constricted, my pulse beats small and low, the diastole and systole of my heart are irregular, my gall is pent up, a terrible flatulency rises from ileon to colon, and the pia and dura mater impinge most painfully on both cerebrum and cerebella.

But let me have due liberty of this delightful occupation, every thing goes on harmoniously again; my breathing becomes soft and free, my heart beats regularly, my blood flows in a sweet even current, and cerebrum and cerebella feel nothing but pleasurable sensations; therefore good sir, take any thing from me but my puns; but these I never can give up, for when you take my puns you take my life.

Now sir since it is a punishment to you to listen to a pun, and as it smells as bad to your nostrils as la punaise does to a Frenchman, I hold it that you cannot possibly be a good judge of a bad pun. How wonderfully doctors differ! An old pun so far from being worse to me for its age, is all the better, and like cheese acquires a mellowness and pungency by being kept, which it had nothing of at first.

I think you must be of Roman descent, or you could not be such an enemy to puns; for the Roman

people were famous for their *Punic* wars, which were the worst they ever engaged in; and their aversion for every thing which contained a pun was so well known, that when the Carthageneans took Regulus prisoner, the death they decreed for him as most hateful, was to stifle him in a puncheon.

But however the word pun may be disagreeable to fastidious people in this degenerate age, in former times it was held in due estimation, and in other countries it still maintains its ancient respectability. Even among the old Romans themselves the *Puniceus* color was esteemed highly, as it was by all the rest of the civilized world at that period; and in the East Indies their most learned men have been called *Pundits* from the earliest times, and are so still.

England was never so flourishing or happy as when punning was in its highest state of honour, when it was governed by a punning king, a punning ministry, and had punning sermons delivered from the pulpit; from one of which the old well known extract has been taken of "all houses are now ale-houses, matrimony is become a mere matter of money: was it so in the days of Noah: ah no!"

Now sir only consider what happiness attended the house of Stewart at this time, and with them the whole nation. For 25 years England enjoyed profound peace, and its pun-loving monarch, James, possessed happiness and respect; but as soon as his son, who hated puns, came to reign, the nation fell into misery and disturbance, and never had any ease, till the pun-hating Stewarts were sent out of the kingdom altogether, to make way for the august family, under whom these Isles enjoy such immense blessings.

Did you ever laugh sir, when you were a boy, at

"——— that facetious fellow

The children's wonder, Signor *Punchinello*."

And are you not sensible that the very essence of his name is Pun, and that it must be owing to this circumstance, that he is so agreeable, that he has only to appear in order to excite laughter; and besides is more

than a match for the Devil and Bonaparte, in his frequent engagements with them. I must here note for the benefit of our Irish showmen, that the latter important personage, is become an established character among the wooden dramatis personæ, in all polite exhibitions on the Continent of England, and a very great and admired addition he is to them.

Many of the ancients have been known to be fond of puns, and among them the elegant, the energetic, and classical Cicero held them in due reverence. The pun which he made on Julius Cæsar selling some estates, very much under their value, to Servilia the mother of Brutus (with whose daughter Tertia he intrigued with her connivance) is no less known than admired, and is thus related with deserved encomiums by the accurate Suetonius. "*Cum quidem plerisque vilitatem mirantibus facitissime Cicero, Quo melius, inquit, emptum sciatis, Tertia deducta est:*" the famous line also of his, which he valued above all his orations.

"*O Fortunatam natam me Consule Roman.*"

If it does not contain a pun, at least exhibits an excellent clench, which is a pun in embryo, or at farthest is of the pun family.

I would now wish to end this unequal contest with you sir, owning myself but a *puny* antagonist; and if you let it cease here, I promise to obtrude my advice on you no more. You will hesitate perhaps and say that mine is but a *punica* fides, but I assure you sir on the contrary you may rely on my being *punctual* to my word; and in order to farther confirm it, I shall be happy to meet you whenever you please, to terminate our dissention *more Hibernico optimo*, over a jug of punch.

I am Sir your obedient servant,

NEMS.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

GENTLEMEN,

IF the following *Tour from Ballymena to Newtownlimavaddy*, can meet your approbation, you will oblige me by inserting it.

Impelled by an ardent curiosity, and in order to gratify a desire I

had for some time cherished; with a mind in a great measure unincumbered by care, untempered by passion, while the day was yet dubious, and my companions locked in the soft embraces of the soporiferous god. I arose one morning in summer last, and set off from Ballymena. Sometimes I was delighted to hear the little watchful dogs, that were shut up in the cottages which I passed, question me concerning my early ramble; sometimes observing the hare quietly cropping the tender blade in the corn fields, ere it should again resume its furze-crowned covert. Sometimes stopping to hear the shrill clarion of the cock, chirruping his nodding harem: the sky lark's tuneful mattins; or, inhale the redolent breezes of the morning.

Now the sun began to peep over the mountains of the east, and with slanting beams silver the dewy drops that were pendant on every leaf; here and there, the chimney of some lowly cabin, sent up its smoke in sinuous columns, to the cloudless cerulean vault of heaven. Nature in all her various departments wore the most benignant aspect;—the brute creation seemed to rejoice in having attained the summit of all possible happiness, while my heart was in unison with the happy creatures, and exulted in the prospect before me.

Immersed in such pleasing contemplations, the time passed insensibly away till I came to Clough, a little straggling village, in which I observed the ruins of an ancient monastery, of what order I could not learn, I was only informed, that it had once been of great extent, and was destroyed by fire; all that remains of it at present is an immensely thick wall, of a considerable length and height, through which there is a kind of arch, but whether it was at first designed as such, or frittered away by the corrosive tooth of Time, is not easy now to determine.

There is a pleasing solemnity steal on the mind while viewing the wreck of former ages. Perhaps here (said I) the male devotee sought to expiate the errors of his former years, by a formal, monotonous round of monkish austerities, or the pallid nun

"In single blessedness,
 Chaunted cold hymns to the pale, lifeless
 moon."

Those scenes have long since passed ;
 now, "the thistle shakes its lonely
 head, and the moss whistles to the
 wind."

Two miles further stands Clough-
 mills, a village similar to the former.
 Here, on the convenient cabins, which
 their industrious forefathers had rear-
 ed by the labour of the loom, the
 sign post creaked to the blast, and
 ale, spirits, &c. held conspicuous
 stations: here the meagre, thin clad
 debauchee, staggered sullenly home,
 as if ashamed to be seen by his
 sober neighbours; and heard without
 emotion, the pitiable complaint of the
 wretched mendicants who solicits his
 charity, and thronged its street. These
 are thy victims thou demon of dis-
 sipation! this woman and her starving
 family, had once a husband, and a
 father whose heart was kind, sympa-
 thetic, commiserative, but by indulg-
 ing in thy Circean draught, in
 time did relegate from his heart all
 the finer feelings of his nature; tore
 himself from the arms of an unhap-
 py family, rendered so, by his de-
 bauchery and improvidence; enlisted
 in the army, and left them unprotected
 in a selfish and apathetic world.
 Yonder old man after spending the
 better part of his life in thoughtless
 intemperance, is now reduced to the
 cruel necessity of bearing the bitter
 taunts of persons little disposed to
 succour him; and to subsist on the
 miserable pittance of his more com-
 passionate fellow creatures. Think,
 oh think, my countrymen! what a
 load of misery might be removed by
 bestowing on such wretches, what
 you would spend in the excesses of
 a single night; say not, they are
 undeserving; infallibility and consis-
 tence is the portion of but few; their
 ragged looks, and tattered weeds,
 plainly indicate their misery, and
 loudly appeal to your humanity; and
 by whatever occurrences they are
 thus reduced, they are still objects
 of your compassion. But I shall leave
 such shocking pictures, and pursue my
 journey.

Onward a few miles I was shown
 an ancient burying ground, of per-

sons whose names have long been
 lost in oblivion, and whose remains
 were envied the possession of a little
 spot, which by the number of large
 stones, placed as "rude memorials,"
 was yet held tenable from the ob-
 trusions of the plough. Perhaps, said
 I, as I walked among those humble
 tumuli, the day will yet come, when
 the halo which encircles the names of
 the ambitious mortals, who now em-
 broil the world, shall have dissolved
 in air, and they be happy (if it were
 possible) to exchange situations with
 the unknown tenants of these silent
 graves: a tear moistened my cheek,
 while a *sic transit gloria mundi*,
 dropt intuitively from my lips. Near
 this is a spot where an obstinate bat-
 tle had been once fought between
 two ancient Irish families, but which
 of these were the victors, or the
 vanquished, can hardly now be as-
 certained.

After walking a few lonely
 miles, through a barren tract of
 country, I was happy in observing,
 I had arrived in a more fertile, and
 better cultivated spot, interspersed
 with a number of charming seats,
 and beautiful plantings; an hour or
 two more brought me to Dervock,
 a small town, built by the late Earl
 Macartney, which consists of one long
 street, but from the uniformity of its
 houses, the eye of the traveller is
 fatigued before he reaches the end
 of it. Here I rested for the night,
 and on the morning set off accom-
 panied by a friend, to see the Giant's
 Causeway. It were unnecessary to
 describe the country thither, as I
 could observe little worth remarking;
 at length I was agreeably surprized,
 to find myself all at once on the
 coast, and impatiently asked my com-
 panion, where lay this celebrated mole,
 that had been the wonder of former
 ages? We descended a romantic
 moss-covered hill, and about half way
 down, he showed me a well of fine
 spring water, which issued from the
 interstices of three stones, sunk a lit-
 tle below the surface, and shaped
 like those of the Causeway.

We followed the track, and a few
 minutes more brought us to this cu-
 rious specimen of the tasteful, and
 regular, in the inanimate works of

nature: herein lies the principal charm. She that before delighted in the wild, the bold, the negligent, now assumes the minute, the artful, and the methodical. There are three accessible circular eminences, beyond which nature, as if ashamed of deviating from her general plan, continues her workings, amid the waters of the mighty deep, beyond the prying observation of the curious.

These eminences are each composed of stones, of different colours and hardness, which are in general of a pentagonal shape, set on their ends, and are about a foot over, and sometimes six or eight feet in length, each standing on the top of other stones, which to render more stable, are either convex or concave, and as closely joined and fitted, as if done by art; the appearance is more magnificent, by the rude dashing of the waves, which beat around the base of these little hills, where after having spent their idle rage in vain, they retire gumbuling at their disappointment.

Two miles further stands the ruins of Dunluce castle, built on an isolated abrupt rock, which seems to have been torn from the adjoining hill, by some convulsion of nature; to this hill it had been joined by a bridge about 18 feet long, over a chasm of 60 feet deep: all that remains at present of this bridge, is one of its walls, about 18 inches broad, and rather ragged; beyond this there is an area of 400 feet in length, and 60 in breadth, forming two spacious courts, which had once been a range of offices, barracks, or possibly both; this pile of ruins is striking beyond description; from its situation, (hanging upwards of 200 feet above the level of the sea) and from its size, it is impossible to view so great a mass falling into ruins, and not become melancholy; the mind naturally looks back through "the dark postern of time long elapsed," when those walls which now afford shelter to the rat and the weasel, resounded to the din of a clang of arms, and enclosed an host of warriors, terrible in all the adjacent country. Echo, which had oft been awaked, by the convivial song, or the mellifluous tones of the harp, now, only reverberates the

mournful screams of the owl, or the murmurs of the waves below.

We next visited another natural curiosity, called round Gilbert; this resembles a cauldron about 20 feet across the mouth, and 60 deep, at the bottom of which, there is a small aperture on the sea side, through which the waves enter with dreadful impetuosity while the tide flows, and leave the bottom bare, when they recede from the land.

From hence I proceeded to Coleraine, a handsome and cleanly town, beautifully situated on the river Bann, over which there is a neat wooden bridge, that may be seen from almost either ends of its principal street, which falls on both sides to the river, in a gently sloping descent, and adds much to its beauty. This is a borough, port, and market town, and with the surrounding liberty, is governed by a Mayor, who decides all its petty litigations, but though it is almost wholly situated on the county Antrim side of the river, Londonderry is its assize town. There are some handsome public buildings, and a public library of well selected, useful, and entertaining books; the inhabitants are civil, courteous, and polite.

I staid here till the morning, and thence bent my course to Newtownlimavaddy, but after walking three or four miles, I espied Downhill-house and that I might omit nothing worth observing, I walked aside to visit it: it is an august pile of building, erected by the late Bishop of Derry on a bold rocky shore, commanding a sublime prospect of the Deucalionian sea: here the grounds, the house, every room, displays striking memorials of the elegant taste of the late owner; and the stranger would suppose, that architecture, statuary as painting, had each exhausted the several beauties, while each seems to challenge the palm for itself. On the extreme edge of the rock, built a circular temple, in which kept a most extensive library, stored with works of the best authors in almost every language.

From hence I traversed a charming variety of hills and valleys, till I caught the cheering prospect of

a beautiful champaign country, embosomed in hills, and thickly studded with elegant seats; on the right hand I beheld the sea, and on the left some stupendous mountain scenery, in original wildness, mocking the sturdy efforts of labour, and forming a striking contrast with the finely cultivated country to which I was descending.

The mind naturally dilates itself, on such happy prospects being presented to the view; here the peasantry, from their more moderate toil, and from the salubrious situation of the country, appeared more hale and robust, than in most other places through which I passed, and the soil from being of a fine sandy substance, has a rich and exuberant appearance. I could not help thinking that the minds of men assimilate themselves, to the nature of the country which they inhabit: if this is sterile and mountainous, those are blunt and adventurous; if rich and fertile they are gentle and contented; nor need we travel to France and Switzerland to adjust this remark; we have only to look a few miles around us, and be fully satisfied on the subject.

Newtownlimavaddy is a handsome little town, built generally of brick, of which there are some exceeding good houses, its principal street is straight and spacious, the river Roe describes a kind of semicircle on its western side, and on its banks are some of the most picturesque landscapes I have ever seen. Its inhabitants have an easy politeness which is very agreeable, the greater number of whom, instead of spending their leisure hours in idle frivolity, cultivate musick, painting, &c. or recreate their minds in pointing out to each other, the several beauties of Homer, Shakespeare, Milton, &c. while some of them have "Waked the strong divinity of soul," and produced works highly creditable to themselves.

I understand that a respectable lady of this place, means to favour the public with a volume of poems (now nearly printed) which are highly spoken of in the circles where elegant taste and correct judgment prevail. It is wished they may

meet the warm expectations entertained of them by the enlightened people of this country.

I staid here a few days, and returned by Garvagh, Kilrea, &c. but as this route has been already well described in a former number, I shall not trouble you with a repetition; I am, gentlemen, yours, &c.

Ballymena.

To a Proprietor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

TO a traveller of taste, the beauties of nature cannot but be interesting, and we should feel thankful to those who endeavour to picture to our minds, what our eye has not seen. Yet the gratitude is rather due to the intention, than to the execution; for every man's own experience will be sufficient to prove to him the absolute insufficiency of the most accurate verbal description to convey a just idea of nature's scenic beauties. A lively eloquent description may present some ideas, but they are, compared with the ideas of the narrator, feeble and indistinct, and most probably seldom, if ever, corresponding with the original of the verbal portrait. Books of travels therefore, or descriptions of the wonders of nature or art, should, it would appear, be sparing of dwelling much in words, on what may be much more easily "presented to the mind, by being subjected to the faithful eyes," through engraving. An occasional dilatation on a favourite view, or an attempt at communicating to the reader, what the writer has *really* felt, is allowable; but surely it will be unanimously allowed, that the turgid declamation in common-place language, on common-place topics, incessantly repeated, deserves to be spurned with disgust. This disgusting excess of the descriptive seems to originate in an attempt to supply by declamation, barrenness of incident. In the present state of civilization in Europe, a man of common sense might travel in the most provoking security, from one end of the Continent to the other, and if he be a man of truth, he will find himself driven to the hills, and dales, and precipices, and statues, and paintings,

for materials to fill his book ; nay he will *rummage kitchens* for something to remark on. We may add to this that our travellers, who are so wonderfully quick-sighted as to be able almost to count the grains in the knotted oak, seem to have altogether overlooked that biped animal, man, which they must have occasionally encountered in their journey. Hence flourishing bleach-greens, neat houses, elegant mansions, and lofty spires, glitter through their pages ; but very little is said of those through whom the meadow smiles, or *spires aspire*. "The proper study of mankind is man : " this is strictly true, in the sense which implies, that man should be a leading, not an exclusive study, and it seems surprising, that this truth has not been more impressed on those who have at times complimented the public with the fruits of their observations. This truth has been so impressed on my mind, that possibly I may have fallen into the opposite extreme, and have perhaps been culpably negligent of those beauties, which nature hath so bountifully scattered through this island, to which chiefly my little excursions have been confined. You will not wonder therefore, if the itineraries presented in some of your late numbers, have not the charms for me that they probably have for the writers, and that a mere detail of towns, and villages, and mountains, &c. do not interest me.

A striking, and as it appears to me, an interesting, subject for observation offers—nay, obtrudes itself in the repulsive exterior of northern manners. This part of Ireland, is beyond a doubt the pride of Ireland. The wealth, the populousness, the highly cultivated appearance of the greater part of the northern counties, are indisputable proofs of the spirit and industry of the inhabitants, as the high esteem, in which they are held by those, with whom they hold commercial intercourse, is a proof of their integrity. But the diamond wants the polish ; it is true, that polish *in itself*, is trifling ; but without it, what is the diamond ? Scarcely to be distinguished from the vulgar pebbles, with which it lies. To speak in the spirit of trade, politeness, or its more

accessible substitute, civility, costs nothing ; it may therefore be freely bestowed ; and cheap as it is, we may know from our own feelings, how highly it is prized by those, to whom it is paid. Besides, the absence of it, is not the mere *negation* of a quality : it is positive rudeness, and partakes more or less of insult. There are certain forms, established by all nations, indicative of respect ; and however trifling these may be, whether the taking off the shoes, or merely touching the hat, the withholding of them is naturally construed into disrespect, and when the person, we converse with, feels himself treated with contempt, he presents to us in the feeling of offended pride, a fence that we shall find difficult to pass or to remove.

This defect in polish, becomes among the lower classes, actual insolence. On reading Hamilton's Survey of the County Antrim, it will be found, that this is not the first complaint on the subject, and from my own experience I must add, that the description given by Wild, of the ruggedness of American manners, would very nearly apply here. A temper and behaviour, something like these, in the English, have been frequently defended and extolled, as the fruits and evidences of liberty and independence ; but to me rudeness and independence seem to have no necessary connexion. On the contrary, a person endeavouring to prove his freedom by his insolence, would appear to me, like a recently enfranchised slave, abusing a thing new to him, through ignorance. The intercourse of free men of liberal minds, would effect mutual suavity of manners. They would consider each other with respect, and have regard to each others feelings and the effect of this, however it may vary in the expression, would be to promote civility, and banish rugged insolence of manners.

Christmas day, as it is celebrated in this country, is another subject for a traveller's consideration, and one, that may happen to speak *very feelingly* to his own person. Do not be alarmed sir, I do not mean to touch on polemical touch-paper ;—

guns and gun-powder, with the *unlicensed* abuse of them are the object of my observation. On that day in last year I was a traveller, and only my horse was very steady, my journey might have come to a conclusion sooner than I had designed. My way was through Belfast, and I naturally expected to pass through and go on, with the same tranquillity as I have often before. My expectations however, were woefully traversed. As I approached your town, I was surprised to meet a great number of people, carrying muskets and fowling pieces of all bores and sizes. A continual hedge-firing was kept up, and much noise was heard on all sides. At first I was a little apprehensive *about* my horse, and by and by, when I had time to notice the effect of the firing on the birds, I began to be apprehensive *for* my horse. My first apprehension was, that he might be frightened, my second that he might be wounded.

I conclude, kind sir, that you pass the dreary time of winter, principally with your books, and that you are not often called on by any duty to traverse miry roads on wintry days; therefore it is possible, that this *real* and *appropriate* celebration of Christmas day, may have been without your knowledge. If you had not been eye-witness to it, you might be pardonable for supposing me inclined to exaggerate; but believe me, I speak within compass, when I say, that I cannot compare the exhibition of *fusileers*, on that day, to any thing with more propriety, than to an army in disguise. One might have been tempted to suppose, that the garrison of Belfast had had a *hedge and field* day, and that they had been sent out in coloured clothes to maintain a sham fight in ambush with an invading enemy.—There were, indeed, "*quot milia magnis nunquam venere Mycenis*;" more hundreds than ever came from the office for licenses. One friend of mine having a spirited horse, and perhaps not being a very good horseman, got two falls in consequence of the general alarm through the country. Horsemen, however, were not the only beings driven from their seats.

The thrush, the blackbird, the sparrow, the red-breast; all heard the thundering mandate given, and fled to places more remote.

Now kind sir, supposing that from studious habits you are not much acquainted with the laws relating to sporting, you know, I presume, that a heavy penalty may be laid on any unlicensed person, who carries any weapon, &c. for the destruction of game. The great mass of the sportsmen on this occasion were of that description. What then must we think of the administration of our laws in this country, when such things are permitted? yet I would not be too severe in this case, and I shall therefore endeavour to frame an excuse for the magistrates, who failed in their duty, and a justification for those, who seemed to have transgressed. Of the former let us charitably suppose, that they *did not hear the firing*; and of the others, let the truth be told, that the weapons they bore, were not for the destruction of *game*, as a proof—no game was killed.

I have other things to present to your notice; but I should wish before I write any more, to know whether this will suit your publication.—If you insert it, you shall hear from me again; if not, my labour is saved; in either case, I am sir, yours, &c.

PEREGRINE.

January 10, 1810.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

A LETTER TO A STUDENT AT COLLEGE.

SIR,

SO it seems you have felt a little of the rubs of life on your passage to college. You were going to the school of that philosophy which professes to teach submission to disasters; and lest you should not improve by theoretic instructions you have been favoured by an introductory lesson from Mrs. Experience. You wisely resolve not to take the same route again. I grant that, to be three days at sea, to be within sight of the desired haven, driven back, tossed hither and thither, under all the nausea of sea sickness, cribbed in a sloop's cabin; she logging this hour,

lying-to the next, and a third rolling in a traverse course mid angry surges, eventually to land at Lough Ryan, then foot it through deep roads to Glasgow, and have your luggage box advancing far in the rear, by slow marches, and at a heavy expense, would not be an eligible plan of travelling. But you might cross the channel for many years and never again fall into such an adverse course: and *quere*, might not by way of Donaghadee be attended with equal misfortunes. He sometimes falls into Scylla who desires to shun Charybdis. What is well known among the students by the appellation of "the black stone examination," you say, was concluded, as usual, before the Christmas holidays. Dark and black were the intellects of many consummate dunces who have lumpishly sat upon that stone. It has been also yearly graced by the passable scholar, and occasionally honoured by the youth of brilliant talents, to some, it has been the grave stone of their fame, or rather the cope-stone of their infamy; while it served as an elevating step to the literary glory of others. The prospect of a seat upon it has been the stimulus of unwearied application; and the insurmountable difficulty of rising off it with credit has paralyzed the feeble sinews of intellect. Some have stupidly disregarded all its honours, and all its shame: and others feelingly anticipated the concomitant plaudits, or disgracing hiss of a departure from it.

It gratifies me to hear of Irish proficiency, especially in a Scotch seminary, and in the teeth of all bandies' yet remaining prejudices against open-hearted and blundering Pat. Young H. of H. is a phenomenon of literature: but perhaps he already is in the zenith of his literary conspicuity, and by the time he arrives at manhood may have sunk to the nadir of obscurity. Or, may be, he is one of those *little* twelve year old boys who were born twenty years ago. But no more thus. It is the boudien duty of all to cherish promising parts. He may yet help to redeem his native Erin from the reproach of barbarous rusticity, and rank in the future annals

of the historian among men of eminent genius.

Your letter disappoints my expectations by its silence on the literary success of yourself and comrades. Modesty, no doubt, forbids a man to become the trumpeter of his own praise: yet matters of fact, humbly stated, could not justly subject to the charge of self-conceit. Perhaps, however, your works have not praised you in the gate, or you have been eclipsed, and though you obtained a *bene*, yet you wish to suppress its publicity, because it was not accompanied with a *valde*. In a day when there is a strong jealousy of rivalry among those who press into the temple of fame, when the lettered professor might perhaps look with a suspicious eye on the tyro of more than ordinary talent, when good scholars are much more numerous than in former times, when the bare acknowledgement of merit must be extorted, when sterling worth is thrown into the shade, and minute foibles are magnified with all the pith of depreciating exaggeration, to obtain the character of mediocrity is a matter of no small consequence.

It seems some of our Irish bards attending college this season are ambitious to string Erin's lyre in the academic groves of Caledonia. To publish poems by subscription savours too much of an attempt to obtrude upon the world what an author fears would not obtain circulation by its native merit. The twinkling bardlings should cautiously peep forth to observation so near the sun of such a poet as Walter Scott, lest their feeble ray might be lost in the transcendent lustre of his meridian blaze. But, say you, the sun has his revolving planets, and these their accompanying inferior satellites, all necessary to complete the solar system. Yes, and *ignis fatuus*, a part of nature's works, shines in the dark, and in the shade the glowworm emits a glimmering light. Far, however, be it from me to exalt strangers at the expense of demeaning my countrymen, and especially my brother rhy-mers, while in the face of ten thousand obstacles, and maugre the virulent opposition of the snarling critic,

or being inferior to criticism, we are labouring round the base of Parnassus with anxious emulation to clamber to its lofty summit. There we may never arrive, and should we not, we will at least have the honour of failing in a laudable undertaking, or be exposed to ridicule for aping our superiors, like the frog in the fable that vainly attempted to swell to the size of the ox. If this criticism be just, it is more heroic to make it ourselves than leave the credit of it in the power of another: nor does the stricture subtract one mite from whatever worth our poetical productions possess; besides, in such criticism we discover a portion of sense, in which some of the most eminent poets have been defective, namely, in that of not knowing, and of not acknowledging their own imperfections.

And what is more, we bid fair to improve; because conviction of a man's own defects is a first step to amendment. Nor is an unpromising outset a certain omen of an unsuccessful issue. Demosthenes, the stammering and awkward Athenian, became the prince of Grecian orators, Cicero, "his successful rival among the Romans, calls him a perfect model." A caviller may say, "*Poeta nascitur non fit.*" A writer of any kind is born such, nay so is the artist and meek mechanic. Where innate capacity, stamina to work upon are not, education cannot communicate them. A man born with no brains capable in future life of thinking for himself, with no inherent talent for observation and reflection, with no embryo fitness for collecting a stock of common sense, or communicating it to the world, may, through the long and assiduous drilling of schools and colleges, become a made man, an artificial being, a sort of human machinery, yea he may become an adept in the superficial niceties of letters, but never will be a successful, an entertaining, an instructive or original author. But let the objector notice, those innate principles may, with difficulty, be called into action. Their first appearances may be made, yet capable of receiving a high degree of improvement. The artificer knows not what

beautiful and excellent furniture may be made out of the roughest block, until he has hewn it for some time. To throw it aside as useless because of its knotty and coarse appearance would discover want of skill. The finest statues were once in the rugged rock.

It is not easy to see what the bard you mention gains by endeavouring to add to his stature, and at so much expense too, unless he expects the more successfully to recommend himself to some of those fair angels who set a high value on appearances. I should have imagined his bardship would rather have been proud of resembling the crooked and awkward figure of Pope.

You are right in attending argumentative societies: they will teach you to talk, a very necessary requisite for one who aims at the honours of pulpit exhibition. Take care you do not contract a habit of wincing at every step, as a restive and galled horse; or that you become not an Ishmaelite, "having your hand against every man, and every man's hand against you." A spirit of contradiction has been sometimes mistaken for the spirit of argument, and of Christianity also. You should have likewise attended some teacher of elocution. The best plays will be damned when put into the hands of bad actors. Every public oration owes at least one half of its influence to manner. I will here, from his translator, transcribe a tale of *Abbe Furetiere*. Though you may have seen it, a second perusal will not be irksome, especially as the tale is in point; and as I conceive you stand more in need of learning address, and aptness of communication, than of adding to your stock of knowledge. "A gentleman attended a certain prince one day to a sermon. The prince asked him at his return what he thought of the preacher. Loth to say any thing to the preacher's disadvantage, and not being able in conscience to praise him, he told the prince that his attention was diverted from the pulpit by the behaviour of a young ecclesiastic, who, standing by a pillar near his seat, behaved like a raving madman. He wrung his hands, he

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rolled his eyes to heaven, hestamped, he exclaimed, O! *Monsieur Racine!* O! *Monsieur Racine!* What could the man mean, said the prince. I asked him what was the matter as we came out, continued the gentleman, and he said, what sir, did you never hear of *Monsieur Racine's* tragedy of *Alexander*, which is a finished piece? His friends had all assured him it was an excellent tragedy, and they had good reason for saying so. Trusting to their judgment he gave it to *Moliere's* company to act. What followed? It was damned the first night. *Racine* was extremely chagrined at this disappointment, and reproached his friends with their want of judgment or fidelity. O, said they, the tragedy is excellent, but *Moliere's* company excel only in comedy, and they spoiled it in acting. Give it to the Burgundy hotel and you'll see it will meet with applause. He followed their advice, and the piece gained him great reputation. Now this is my case. I composed the sermon which you just now heard. In the opinion of connoisseurs it is a finished piece. Unhappily I gave it to this vile, executioner to preach, and you see what effects it produced in his ungoverned mouth. Where he should have elevated his voice, you could hardly hear him, and in the soft and tender parts, where he should have melted his audience, the beast belowed like a mad bull. But I'll play *Monsieur Racine* with him. I'll take my sermon from him and give it to somebody who knows how to pronounce it."

It is now high time to tell you in the usual routine of epistolary correspondence, "I am well, your friends here are well." They got your letter a month after it was written; and such is oft the consequence of committing a letter to this and the other friend to carry, for the purpose of saving the trifling expense of postage.

Let my brother know his friends are well. I am glad to hear you experienced friendship from him. Hospitality is a prominent, and amiable feature in the character of a true born Hibernian. Give my kind compliments to Messrs. my old pupils. They will, by this time, have learned

whether it be a good way for boys hastily to ramble over the classics, and prematurely hurry to a college. For what you may need, write timeously: the head is often run against a post for want of looking an inch before the nose. A little money is a necessary requisite in a distant country. It has been alleged that travelling, or living in Scotland is cheaper than in Ireland; and for what reason I know not. This island certainly abounds with a greater profusion of the necessaries of life. Perhaps our innkeepers know better how to charge for their bill of fare. As you are naturally studious, the less money will you require: the idle and flashy students are invariably at most expense. It is an unpleasant circumstance, that so much cash goes out of this country yearly, to defray college expenses, for which we have, at least in kind, no return. A college is much wanted in the north of Ireland.

A seminary, possessing the power of conferring degrees, furnished with properly qualified *Irish Professors* alike open to the reception of Protestant, Catholic, and Dissenter, would be the high honour of the province of Ulster. It would both promote the reputation and interest of the people of Belfast were they, with heart and zeal, to draw together in expediting the completion of their projected university. To you it is scarce necessary to say, endeavour to have value received, in some useful mental accomplishment. It would be a fruitless adventure indeed, to return as most do, with an empty pocket, and also as some have done, with an empty head. You desire to see the Belfast magazine: it will be found at Brash and Reed's. This periodical work deservedly increases in its credit by continuing to exhibit literary and useful topics, instead of that low and coarse wit, which has disgraced some such prints. The taste of the populace instead of being gratified, should be weaned from that ribaldry and meanness which excite a momentary laugh at the expense of decency and sense. The occasional interspersions however of a flash of genuine wit produces a seasonable re-

lavation from the perusal of cool and critical ratiocination.

I recollect nothing remarkable since your departure, unless the singular occurrence of Bonaparte divorcing his Empress Josephine, but this is known all over the world, and the more singular report which has prevailed of his desired union with a princess of the house of Brunswick by way of ratifying a lasting peace with England. You will see, the *Gazettes of Europe* are roaming in the regions of conjecture, in search of a new bride for the eccentric Emperor of France.

I am, sir, as I have room to say no more, your friend: it is enough, where realized, and too much where it is not.

S.E.

Ballynahinch.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

IN every human production we must expect to find truth alloyed with falsehood. Even in the most upright minds the passions possess more power to bias, than the subjects of their influence could have supposed; and if this take place in histories of modern times, we may reasonably expect the same in histories of remoter periods, written too under unfavourable circumstances.

The early records of all nations may at once be dismissed as fabulous, or if thought worthy of being preserved, they may be presented to the antiquarian, as the historian justly thinks them unworthy of his notice. Light however dawns, but at differing periods, on the records of different nations, until we at length come to possess as much to guide our steps, as can consistently be expected.

This observation holds generally; but, like every general rule, has an exception, and a remarkable one, in the Persian history. Its records commence with an early period, as those of other histories, but with more appearance of consistency and truth: they descend as low, but do not improve, as others, in the valuable qualifications of history. The very latest of the Persian histories abound almost as much in fiction, absurdity, and anachronism, as the earliest, and the best of them seem to have forgotten the duties of history,

and substituted the wild detail of Eastern panegyric. The excessive floridity of their style, sanctioned by long use, and now indispensable, renders it difficult for Europeans, at least, to draw a just line of distinction, where wholly to reject, and where to accept with limitation.

The following passage is taken from a prose writer, who professes to give an account of the Mogul court under Shah Jehan,* and may serve as a fair specimen of Asiatic style:

"The sun, which illumines the firmament in the universe of royalty and dominion—the moon, that irradiates the sky of monarchy and felicity; in other words, the king, who in pomp resembles Gensheed at the close of night offers up his devotions to the true deity.

"The sun of the heaven of prosperity and empire, the shadow of God, the asylum of the universe, the splendour of whose instructive front causes light and gladness to the world, increases the splendour of Jehrokaḥ khas u aum by his presence. On his auspicious approach the kettle drum of joy proclaims the same aloud. Then pass in review fleet steeds; renowned elephants, resembling mountains; gentlemen of the sword and pen, valiant and cautious; archers, piercers of stone; club bearers, destroyers of ranks; matchblockmen, dilapidators of mountains. All the servants, struck with veneration and attachment on beholding the august countenance, are lost and immersed in wonder and amazement. Notwithstanding they are so much pressed together, they do not presume to converse one with another; but, having closed their lips with the seal of silence, and girded up the loins of obedience, listen to commands inevitable as the decrees of fate; and in the road of obedience and compliance, outstrip the lightning and the wind."

The preceding, which is a fair specimen, presents rather the hyperbolic

* The book, whence this extract is made, gives no clue to find, when or where Shah Jehan reigned. I believe him to be the descendant of Miran Shah, third son of Tamerlane, and that he ascended the throne, established by Tamerlane, A. D. 1627.

language of poetry, than the sober, philosophic language of history, and is more fitted for exciting distrust of the description, than confidence in the narrator.

On the whole, much credit does not seem due to the Persian historians; yet as they are almost the only recorders of Persian affairs, some attention should be paid to them; and even suppose their compositions to be little superior to romance, we may value them, like the Arabian nights, for the incidental information contained in them of their customs and manners.

A confirmation of this view of the Persian historians, which may be also extended to the other Orientals, is to be found in the preface to an epitome of Persian history, by W. Ouseley esq. After an enumeration of various historical works, he proceeds to say: "But few of these historical compositions in prose afford more useful or curious information to the Persian antiquary, than the great heroic poem of Ferdousi intitled, *Shah Nameh*, or *Book of Kings*, composed in the 10th and 11th centuries of the Christian æra, from some original annals in the Pehlavi language, which escaped the general destruction of Persian books when the Musulmans invaded and conquered Iran. This celebrated work contains in more than sixty thousand distichs, the ancient records of Persia, from *Caiumarus* to *Yezdgerd*, interspersed with *astonishing fiction and romance*."

Here we have a decided superiority over all prose histories adjudged to a composition, whose nature compels a deviation from the strict line of truth, and whose very epithets detract from its credit. Besides, the foundation, or what may in one sense be called *the real*, on which the fictitious has been erected, is a series of annals in a language, of which the very traces are obliterated long since. Nor was the Pehlavi the language of Ferdousi's time; and we are now to believe, that a language, becoming obsolete nearly 700 years ago, furnished annals of such clearness, solidity, and truth, as to form for a work like this a base, on which we might repose our belief! Add to this, that Ferdousi is acknowledged to have interspersed

astonishing fiction and romance. Some of the wilder parts of these ornaments may be easily distinguished from the probable and the possible: but it is conceivable, that fiction in some parts may produce both the probable and the possible; and in that case, we shall have no clue to distinguish between the true and the false. Any reference to the *original materials* is impracticable, as they have long since perished.

Hence it appears, that we cannot place much confidence in the Oriental historians, when the most celebrated writer among them deals *professionally* in fiction. Still it may be not uninteresting to know, in what manner they represent themselves: and in what respect they agree with—how differ from Greek and Roman writers of cotemporary periods.

With the view of facilitating this pursuit, this Essay has been drawn up, to introduce a sketch of Persian history, on the ground of the before-mentioned epitome, by Mr.—now, Sir Wm. Ouseley.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

THY judgments great God! are full of equity;
Thou takest pleasure in rendering us happy;
But I have been so wicked, that thy goodness
Can never pardon me without shocking thy justice:
Yes O God! the greatness of my impiety
Leaves to thy power but the choice of punishment;
Thy interest is in opposition to my happiness,
And even thy clemency requires my perdition:
Fulfill then thy desire since it is for thy glory,
Be angry at the tears which flow from my eyes:
Thunder! strike! it is time, wage thy war against me;
In perishing I adore the reason of thy wrath;
But upon what place shall thy thunder fall
Which is not covered with the blood of Jesus.

SIRS,

Above I venture to transmit you a literal translation of Barreux's

French hymn as in your magazine for December 1809, page 423. I imagine your correspondent S. is desirous of an elegant poetical translation, which neither my abilities nor inclination permit—in my opinion the praise of Addison on this subject (much as I admire his writings) is very inappropriate; for what sincere Christian can imagine that a man, let him have been ever so wicked, if he repent and turn from his wickedness, can fail of partaking of the divine clemency; I am at a loss to conceive how this clemency can require his perdition, and how the interest of the Supreme Being can be in opposition to the ultimate happiness of even such a wretch. Y.R.

Dublin, Jan. 11, 1810.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

GENTLEMEN,
I HOPE you will have the goodness to insert in your respectable Magazine, the following extract from Dr. Rees' New Cyclopædia. article Education, which may serve to exhibit still more clearly the necessity of a radical reform in the present system of national instruction, adopted in this country, as well as in many other parts of the British empire; and it is also highly gratifying to observe, how exactly the sentiments of the learned writer of that article agree with those of your ingenious correspondents on the same subject. I am sir, yours, &c.

Dublin, Dec. 12, 1809. PHILOMUSUS.

"Happy had it been for Britain, if the 'warning counsels, the prophetic page' of Currie*, had been listened to and followed by her statesmen. As far as our relation with other nations is concerned the time is past; but we may yet profit by those representations which show us what is to be done in order to raise the intellectual and moral character of the nation at large. It is not improbable that national reformation will begin with national distress; but it is not too much to say, that a per-

manent reformation in the condition and character of the poor, can only be brought about by a well-directed attention to their education, in connection with a proper regulation of the laws relative to the indigent poor. Whether in the counsels of an all-wise Providence, it is decreed, that Britain should be thrown from the lofty pinnacle to which she has elevated herself, time can only determine; but it appears clear, that the surest way of avoiding national judgments, is by endeavouring, each in his station, to reform those evils which affect our conduct and character as a nation; and in this point of view also, the communication of knowledge to the poor, may be considered as a national benefit, and as a probable means of lessening national punishment."

Cyclopædia, Vol. XII. part 2.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

AN ESSAY ON PUBLIC ADDRESSES.

GENTLEMEN,

LOOKING over an old newspaper a few days ago which contained an account of the late jubilee, with many feats of eating drinking, &c. performed by his Majesty's good and loyal subjects, to testify their joy, on that great and important occasion: and reading of so much good cheer, with the many loyal toasts drank, my thoughts were naturally led to contemplate the satisfaction his Majesty must receive on hearing of his good subjects being so very full of loyalty, roast beef, and wine, all at once, in perfect joy for his long and glorious reign. I also observed that addresses had not been totally wanting, to congratulate his Majesty, which doubtless were truly acceptable to the royal ear, as they mentioned nought of grievances, misconduct of ministers, parliamentary reform, nor Catholic emancipation. Now, addresses seem to me, generally, a species of flattery most destructive to princes; for the addressors, usually, instead of pointing out any errors in the conduct of the person they address, only, "fool them to the top of their

* D. Currie, the ingenious Editor of Burns' Works, &c.

bent," by a fulsome panegyric, ending with a profession of loyalty, which has often proved more destructive to their true interest, than the most secret machinations of conspirators. It is not my intention at present to take a view of this "long and glorious reign," but proceed to insert a few extracts from the addresses of former times, convinced that the prince who implicitly confides in such stuff, and believes them to breathe the genuine sentiments of his people, is greatly deceived, for experience has proved, the addresses of a few obsequious placemen, and pensioners to be of little use, if the hearts of the people are wanting. Richard Cromwell was pressed in upwards of 600 addresses, to take that government upon him, which a few months after, his addressers took from him. Innumerable addresses were presented to James II. on his accession to the throne, cities, towns, and corporations, all pressed forward on the occasion to express their attachment, by the most servile adulation; from which however I must except that of the quakers: "We are come" (said they) "to testify our sorrow for the death of our good friend, Charles, and our joy for thy being made our governor. We are told that thou art not of the persuasion of the church of England no more than we; wherefore, we hope that thou wilt grant us the same liberty which thou allowest thyself; which doing, we wish thee all manner of happiness."* Many were the addresses presented to James in

* No such address was ever presented by the quakers, notwithstanding the assertion of Echard and Heyman. It was the invention of some wit of those days to ridicule the blunt phraseology of the early quakers, and perhaps to contrast the unmeaning flatteries of addressers. In this latter view it has some point.

The following is the address, which was really presented, and contained as much adulation, as to render it pretty palatable.

TO KING JAMES THE SECOND.

The humble application of the people called Quakers.

"Whereas it has pleased Almighty

favour of that dispensing power, which the men who presented them, soon after converted into a reason for dethroning him; his prodigal minister the earl of Sunderland, at the very time he was betraying him to the prince of Orange, was encouraging him in every step which proved his ruin. About a month before the prince of Orange landed at Torbay, the lord mayor, aldermen, Sheriffs, &c. of London, made use of the following words (addressing James) "we beg leave to assure your majesty that we shall with all duty and faithfulness, cheerfully and readily, to the utmost hazard of our lives and fortunes, discharge the trust reposed in us by your majesty." The lords, archbishops, and bishops of Scotland, concluded with these words. "Not doubting that God will still preserve and deliver you, by giving you the hearts of your subjects, and the necks of your enemies." The grand jury of Middlesex shortly after the delivery of the queen, in their address said, "we congratulate your majesty on the birth of our high and hopeful prince:" at that time not three weeks old. As few are unacquainted with that portion of history which relates to the abdication of James, I shall make no remarks on the forementioned addresses, but proceed to the following anecdote, to show their

God (by whom kings reign) to take hence the late king Charles II. and to preserve thee peaceably to succeed, we, thy subjects heartily desire that the giver of all good and perfect gifts may please to endue thee with wisdom and mercy, in the use of thy great power, to his glory, the king's honour, and the kingdom's good. And it being our sincere resolution, according to our peaceable principles and conversation (by the assistance of Almighty God) to live peaceably and honestly, as becomes true and faithful subjects, under the king's government, and a conscientious people that truly fear and serve God, we do humbly hope that the king's tenderness will appear, and extend with his power to express the same, recommending to his princely clemency the case of our present suffering friends hereto annexed."

B.M.M.

attachment to this high and hopeful prince. On the night of December 6th, 1688; Mary, queen of James II. flying from Whitehall, with her infant son in her arms, had to take shelter under the walls of Lambeth palace, having no roof to cover her, for upwards of an hour, until a hackney coach was procured, to convey her to Gravesend on her way to France; whence she sailed never to return. This is surely an awful lesson to princes, who make innovations on the rights of their subjects; it very plainly shows the cringing addresses of such as aforesaid, to be of little avail when the affections of the people are alienated. At the beginning of the unfortunate contest between Great Britain and her American colonies, the British house of lords, in their address to his majesty on opening the session of 1768, spoke thus: "We most unfeignedly give your majesty the strongest assurance that we shall ever zealously concur in support of such just and necessary measures as may best enable your majesty to repress that daring spirit of disobedience, and to enforce a due submission to the laws: always considering that it is one of our most essential duties, to maintain inviolate the supreme authority of the legislature of Great Britain over every part of the dominions of your majesty's crown." This address certainly had a most pernicious tendency to the true interest of his majesty and the nation at large, and was one of the series of measures which lost to Great Britain nearly all her American colonies. On taking a view of the addresses of other nations, I find a similitude in them to our own—in October 1791, the President of the National Assembly, in his speech to the King, made use of these words; "Sire, you have reason to be beloved by Frenchmen, the constitution has made you the first monarch in the world!" Yet in about ten months after, they dethroned this first monarch in the world, and his fate is too well remembered to require insertion here. Many others of a later period might be enumerated, but as they all tend to the same purpose, and seem only the echo of the others, I shall not insert them,

but leave the reader to make such remarks as he may think proper, in contrasting the spirit that dictated with that which instigated the authors of the foregoing, to act so very different to the sentiments contained in their addresses. S.M.S.

C. Fergus, Jan. 4, 1810.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

THE COURT OF JUNO....A VISION.

Continued from p. 36, No. XVIII.

ON entering the library, I found many of the ladies deeply engaged in various studies; and not wishing to disturb them, I proceeded to the first vacant division, and amused myself with some books of ancient drawings, until the return of Serena. After no very long interval, she again joined me, and we immediately went from the library to visit a most spacious cabinet of mineralogy, in which every species of mineral was classed according to its genus, and the country where it was to be found. While viewing the minerals, she explained to me the nature of petrification in rocks, and concretions of various kinds, in all which, it was caused by the agency of metals, in different degrees of oxidation, and she predicted that before long it would be proved that all rocks whatsoever, owed their formation to a similar cause, which seemed highly probable, from the very extended range which the class of metals is now found to possess, and the number of the substances proved to be metallic, which were before supposed to be of very different natures.

From the mineral room we proceeded to a very extensive apartment, in which were preserved models of all the useful engines which had ever been made, and of many which were of new contrivance, and had not yet come into public use. On our way to this apartment Serena informed me that in the short interval of her absence, she had learned, that I was to be admitted that evening to an audience with Juno, and that a messenger would be sent for me when it was proper for me to go.

This messenger did not arrive till it was quite dark, and the whole

of the intermediate period, we spent in the museum of models, and in an astronomical observatory near it, with the exception of the time necessary for refreshment, which was managed in the same manner, as in the preceding day.

Among the curious engines preserved in the repository of models, the following chiefly attracted my notice.

1. A steam engine of most simple construction, without any valves or piston, and which performed its motions without any of the friction or loss of steam, which common engines experience, and which at the same time acted directly to give either rotary, or other movements to mills, without the intervention of any other machinery.

2. An engine for raising water from mines, which operated without any pump rods or descending weight, by which the loss of power consumed in the present methods, in giving motion to vast masses of machinery, was entirely prevented.

3. A crane for raising heavy bodies, which was so contrived that the time necessary for elevating each, was in exact proportion to its weight;—whereas those in common use, consume nearly as much time in raising a body of a hundred pounds weight, as in elevating one of five tons.

4. An apparatus for moving vessels for navigation by steam, in which there were no parts projecting into the water, so as to be liable to be destroyed by the increased action of the waves in tempests.

Besides these engines I observed some for spinning, in which the raw material was put in at a certain part, and the thread was delivered at another, without any attention being required, for any intermediate operations; but this seemed to me more a work of curiosity, than of any great advantage.

The astronomical observatory, (in which we spent some time, and again returned to the museum of models) was principally remarkable for an apparatus, by which the stars could be plainly viewed during the day, as well as by night; for the exquisite finish and perfection of the instruments;

for time pieces completed with precision far beyond any thing yet known in common practice; and for astronomical calculations, and lunar and planetary tables, brought to the highest degree of perfection.

In viewing those various curiosities of art, and in listening to the judicious observations of Serena, relative to them, the time passed in the most agreeable manner, till the sun descended below the horizon, and the sable mantle of night enveloped the earth; shortly after which the messenger arrived for me, and I reluctantly quitted Serena for a while, to proceed to the palace of Juno.

After passing the outer gates of the palace, I found myself in a spacious vestibule, adorned with fine columns of Parian marble; in the Doric order, and well lighted; in which several ladies appeared dressed in rich and costly habits. At the upper end were seen folding doors of massy silver, richly sculptured; which seemed to communicate with inner apartments. I had not waited long till those doors opened, and a female figure passed them, and approached me, who seemed superior to the rest; her dress was composed of silks, dyed in stripes of the most vivid colours of all kinds, whose brightness dazzled my eyes. But their order being the same as those which appear in the rainbow, soon gave me to understand that they adorned the person of Iris, the favourite attendant of Juno. Her figure was above the common size, and of that species of beauty which is most expressive of activity; and though she had something more than human in her looks, it was tempered by a mild and encouraging manner, which at once excited confidence and esteem.

She told me I might follow her to the throne of Juno, who would now give me an audience; and I immediately proceeded with her into a magnificent hall, at the upper end of which Juno sat on a splendid throne, surrounded by ladies dressed in a most sumptuous style, among whom Minerva and Diana, were at once conspicuous, from the divinity of their appearance, and the pecu-

lir ornaments of their habits. The roof of the hall was supported by columns of massy silver, beautifully sculptured; between which descended ample draperies of lilac velvet, adorned with silver fringe, which covered the spaces of the windows from the ceiling to the floor. The most exquisite paintings in frames of solid gold, adorned the other spaces between the pillars; the floor was overspread with a beautiful carpet of silk piled tapestry; and the ceiling was entirely covered with vast mirrors, which reflected the light (that issued from a profusion of branches, arranged in the most beautiful figures, and supplied with perfumed gasses) so as to add new splendour to its original brilliancy, and produce the most singular and grand effect.

At each side of the throne were images of peacocks, composed entirely of precious stones, arranged so that their colours corresponded exactly to the natural plumage of these beautiful birds, and by some internal mechanism a degree of motion was given to their necks, and expanded tails, which added greatly to the brilliancy of the effect.

Near to Juno stood Diana, arrayed in simple and elegant attire, her hair was plaited and wreathed so as to lie closely, but yet sufficiently to shade her face, and to produce the best ornament to its noble and expressive beauty; a light quiver was suspended from her side by an embroidered belt, and in her hand she held her silver bow. A little further off stood Minerva, in front of some of the ladies of her household.

But the brilliancy and majesty of the appearance of Juno, soon drew my eyes from all other objects. She was above the middle size; her form was of the finest mold, and the beauty of her arms, which she displayed uncovered almost to the shoulder, was peculiarly conspicuous, and her look was expressive of dignity and authority—Her dress was highly superb, and richly adorned with brilliants; and on her head she wore a crown entirely composed of the finest diamonds. When I came sufficiently near to the throne, I knelt to perform my homage to the celestial queen, who

after having the goodness to permit me to rise, thus addressed me:

“Mortal, the purpose of your approach to my court has been already related to me. It is therefore unnecessary to repeat it. At first I felt so indignant at the conduct of Jupiter, and at the injuries offered to your countrywomen, that I was disposed to go in person to bring him to a sense of propriety, and to hold a court in your country for the trial of all delinquents concerned in the business, of which you require redress: but on more mature reflection, I think it would be inconsistent with my dignity to take this step, and would besides be a superfluous interference on the part of the Irish ladies. I have therefore resolved to dispatch Iris with an epistle to Jupiter, which will not fail to have the desired effect. As to the punishment of delinquents, the Irish ladies have already but too much power for that purpose themselves; favoured as they are by the richest gifts of Minerva and Diana, adorned with all the brilliancy of the most luxuriant feminine charms, and aided by that peculiar softness, frankness, and kindness of manner, more powerful than even their beauty, for which they are so justly esteemed. Fortified by virtue, and supplied with such an armoury of powerful weapons, what aid of mine do they require to punish any man who falls under their displeasure. But I have not yet mentioned all their powers; aided by Minerva, many of them can dispute with the other sex, the field of letters, and if literary champions are wanting, the assistance of man is not necessary to them, they are already sufficient for themselves in this respect. The talents of Edgeworth, of Norris, and Hamilton, and the brilliant, though erring genius of Owen-sen, are sufficiently well known;—and if the pens of these ladies could require any aid, many who now wield this powerful weapon in private, are well qualified to give it, and are not inadequate even to controversy, and satire if required.

When indeed I consider the formidable powers of so many various kinds, with which those ladies are

endowed, I am more inclined to pity those who have the misfortune to fall under their displeasure, than to aid in persecuting them, already but too unhappy in being deprived of the smiles of so much worth and beauty.

Perhaps the person who principally has excited their resentment on this occasion, is even deserving of their compassion; may he not be smarting under the pangs of slighted love; the loss of his happiness from faith broken through caprice, by the idol of his soul; or the cruel disappointments of coquetry; and that his sufferings have caused offensive expressions, which should only be considered as the groans of a man on the rack. It is not natural for any man to do any thing voluntarily to displease the fair sex; the few who have ever pointedly done so, may be considered as acting under a temporary insanity; and to endeavour to restore them to their right minds, by those soul-soothing cares, which none know better how to practise than your countrywomen, might be more consistent with their usual humanity and generosity, than by whips and chains, to subdue their disorder to an apparent calm, while in reality it rages more fiercely internally. I would therefore in this spirit advise, that the ladies should terminate the dissension by converting their foe into a friend. Let them select from among themselves a female of that disposition and person, most likely to be agreeable to him, and who will feel no reluctance to the enterprise; let her be introduced to him, and then employ these powers of fascinating kindness for his conversion, which the firmest and wisest men have never been able to resist, and soon shall this adversary be changed into an advocate, eager to employ his pen on the opposite side from that he before assumed, lamenting with anguish his former errors, and emulous to acknowledge them publicly, and to make every reparation in his power. The voice of an amiable, benevolent, sensible woman, the sweetest music in nature to the ears of man, shall soon tune his soul to harmony; and the galling effect of former recollec-

tions shall be for ever obliterated by the felicities of well required love.

Though my meaning may be easily collected from what I have said; it may not be amiss to state explicitly, that I direct this enterprise to be undertaken with honourable and generous intentions, on the part of the lady, to reward that passion which she shall excite, with a just return, in a connubial interchange of mutual endearments; for I shall ever deprecate and discountenance, the unjust acquisition of power over the mind of man, by exciting desires never designed to be satisfied, wherein renovation of hope only prepares for reiteration of disappointment, and the peace of perhaps an honourable and feeling heart is made a bleeding sacrifice to a capricious and insensible vanity.

To farther satisfy the ladies of Ireland, who on many accounts, deserve my approbation, I will add, though it is scarcely necessary, from the little chance there is of what I have advised failing of success, that if their adversary remains unsubdued by the efforts of their kindness thus exerted to convert him to friendship, and persists in employing his pen to their prejudice, I will then have him tried for his offences by a jury of his countrywomen, and inflict on him that punishment, which their justice shall award. And Iris shall be directed to give him notice to this purpose, when conveying my epistle to Jupiter; with which she shall proceed from this, when the next dawn shall illuminate the horizon: and you, mortal, are permitted to return to your country in her company, by that conveyance, in which indeterminate space is traversed with so much facility."

I returned my grateful homage for this condescending speech, but begged leave to observe, that what had been said only related to general literary attacks made on the ladies in a body; and that the case of individual characters exposed to censure, had not been considered, which often gave the sex the highest displeasure.

Minerva replied to me; "That it was beneath the wisdom of my

countrywomen, for which they were so highly esteemed by her, to consider the public statement of a defective female character, as an offence to the sex; that a moment's reflection must show them, that however great the preponderance of all the virtues was in their sex, there must be some delinquents among them, from the very nature of the human lot; and that to arrogate to the sex the incapability of doing wrong in any individual instance, must form a pretension of a nature too indefensible for her to countenance. She therefore in this case recommended to them the example of the male sex, who never imagined or felt the least injury, from the public display of the characters of the wicked, the ridiculous, or the contemptible among them, drawn either from real life, or from the imagination of the writer."

To this she added; "that though she could not but commend my zeal for my countrywomen, yet that after what I heard of the powerful resources of the sex from Juno, I must be convinced of the comparative insignificance of my aid, and that the intrusion of service, where it was so very unnecessary, seldom procured a grateful return."

Diana next addressed me, by observing: "That she could not omit this opportunity of adding her testimony to that of Juno, and Minerva, in favour of the Irish ladies; that they were her chief favourites, and that in no part of the earth, were there to be found women who so well deserved her favour as in Ireland. She thought however she could not better show her good will towards them, than by making that advice general, which Juno had given near the conclusion of her speech, in a particular instance. Those who pursued an opposite conduct, could have no pretensions to her regard; for that she must ever consider that female heart, which placed its glory in the number of matrimonial offers, and in exciting the hopeless passions which led to them, in many lovers, is equally corrupt, though less just and generous than that of the unhappy and degraded wanton, who had indulged the illicit passions of an equal number.

After this Juno signified that I might withdraw, and I was conducted by Iris to the door of the palace in the same manner as I had been led from it. In departing I gave her Neptune's letter to be forwarded as he directed.

I now returned to the residence of Minerva, where I found Serena sitting up for me in the apartment of assembly, all the rest of the ladies having retired for the night.

I felt the most sincere grief at parting from the amiable, accomplished and interesting Serena, and could not resist this opportunity to express it. I assured her that the pleasure I had experienced in her company, for the short period I had enjoyed it, could never be eradicated from my memory; that I felt the most poignant regret at being obliged to resign the happiness of seeing her, and listening to her delightful discourse; and that nothing would give me more satisfaction than the hope of seeing her again; as the highest estimate I could form of human happiness, was to pass my life in the company of a woman of her mental endowments and amiable qualities.

She replied: "That though she was willing to give me as much credit for sincerity as to any man, she could not place any implicit confidence in any one of a sex so prone to flattery; and that the shortness of our acquaintance rendered my assertions at least suspicious."

I answered, that if I could know my own heart I had not mistated its sentiments; which were given with the utmost simplicity of truth; and that as to the shortness of our acquaintance, every man knows when he finds a treasure for which his heart has long been desirous; and that for my part I found in her all those perfections, which the warmest flights of my imagination had ever supposed possible to be united in one lady, but which I had scarcely ever expected to find.

"These kind expressions, she replied, so far deserve my gratitude as to induce me to prove to you by a slight sketch of my history, how totally impossible it is, that your wishes of renewing our acquaintance can ever

be realized; and to remove all vain expectations."

She then (after mentioning that she but occasionally visited the residence of Minerva, and resided in general with her father, who was a Greek priest on a neighbouring island) related a tale replete with affecting incidents, which placed her virtue, her fortitude, and sense of filial duty in the strongest points of view; and increased both my respect and esteem; but of her words it would require too much space to repeat more than the conclusion, which was to the following effect:

"Farewell then, sir, I wish you every happiness, but we part to meet no more; for the chains of filial affection added to those of duty, which singly are sufficient, tie me down to my fate irrevocably. Perhaps indeed it may meet with some variation, but not much for the better; some of the neighbouring Pachas may solicit my hand from my father, and the idea of the rank and splendour to which I should be exalted by the alliance, may cause him to forget his motives for condemning me to celibacy, or induce him to sacrifice his own wishes to what he may imagine to be my happiness: But these Pachas are all either men sunk in the lowest abysses of sensuality, or proud bigots, who think the Koran alone contains all knowledge, and who therefore despise every species of literature and science, equally with the others. Judge then, you who know my taste and my feelings, what happiness I, or any pupils of Minerva, can expect in being united to men of these sentiments. But we must all submit to our lot, and I bear mine with more cheerfulness than you may suppose. In parting I shall however make you a small present, as a token of remembrance, which may be of some use to you; take this glass, by it you shall be able to know truth from false appearances. I know you will not forget me, but I hope that some of your amiable countrywomen will make you soon lay aside the grief with which you seem penetrated, and which cannot serve me."

Saying this she retired, after presenting me with a small optical glass,

resembling those which are used in examining fossils, and left me overwhelmed with grief at her discourse, and full of admiration of her virtues and amiable qualities.

I retired to my apartment but not to rest, the distress I suffered from the circumstances related, banished sleep entirely; and I had not even once closed my eyes, when a messenger arrived from Iris, to let me know that every thing was ready for our departure.

I followed the messenger into a large enclosed court near the palace, where I found an air balloon ready inflated, from which a light car was suspended. The balloon was composed of two compartments, which rendered it more secure; and a large horizontal sail on a light frame, was attached to it, which, by giving it a proper inclination, when the anchor was thrown out, rendered the descent perfectly safe. Ten Peacocks of a prodigious size, with wings as powerful as those of Eagles, were fastened to the car by silk lines, to draw it across the direction of the wind when this was required.

Iris soon came out from the palace; we entered the car, the Peacocks perched round it, the attendants cut the cords, and we mounted rapidly above the earth. It was scarcely light below, but we were soon elevated into a full view of the sun; which shortly after illuminated the hills, the plains, and lastly the sea in succession. By the favour of Eolus the wind blew steadily from the south east, and we passed rapidly over the ocean.

The islands of the Archipelago lay beneath our feet. The blue hills of Asia Minor appeared at a distance to our right, and on the left lay the fertile plains of Greece, once celebrated for the intelligence, the genius and the valour of its inhabitants; but now sunk to the lowest pitch of human misery, by the desolating effects of superstition and despotism.

The tall Minarets of Stamboul, and the dome of St. Sophias, now were seen at a great distance to the north east, and soon again disappeared.

Successfully we passed over Mace-

donia, Rottenfels, Servia, and Hungary, and at length saw Germany far extended below.

Iris now threw out ballast, we rose to a prodigious height, and then had a more extensive view than before.

The Alps appeared to the left, surrounded by clouds, and penetrating them in many parts; eastward from them proceeded the Danube to terminate its prodigious course in the Black sea; and on the otherside was seen the Rhine tracing its devious track from the same mountains, through Germany and Holland to the Northern Ocean.

I here requested from Iris to know the substance of Juno's letter to Jupiter, which she readily permitted me to see, as the contents were not of a private nature. It was written nearly in the following words,

"My Lord, my Sovereign, and my Friend.

Some hundred years ago, when you amused yourself with the young ladies of Greece, I often made myself as ridiculous as you by jealous quarrels, but now it is time for us both to have more wisdom.

I have been informed of your having commenced some of your old freaks in Ireland; I do not wish to interfere with your pleasures, but I request you to consider how little such puerile feats become your dignity and age, and that, instead of spending your time in this manner, you ought to take compassion on the miserable state of mankind, falling rapidly under the hated despotism of the tyrant of France, and which therefore demands your fullest and most undivided attention; if however these considerations cannot move you, I adjure you by our ancient friendship, and the harmony, which has now so long subsisted between us, to cease all further annoyance to the Irish ladies, who are under my peculiar protection, and that of Minerva and Diana, who both join in the request. I know I can depend on your kindness so far, that this last argument would alone be sufficient, and therefore shall conclude with expressing my duty and affection to my lord, my sovereign, and friend.

Juno."

Jupiter sovereign of Olympus, &c. &c.

Shortly after reading this letter we descended near to the earth, and pursued the course of the Rhine. As soon as we got a distant view of the north sea, I recollected the situation of our army then at Walcheren, and requested Iris to bring us as near it as she could; to which she kindly consenting, made the peacocks fly out, who drew us southward from our course sufficiently to bring us over the army. When we came near them, we heard a strange rumbling noise, which we could not for some time account for, till at last we found that it proceeded from the united snoring of the whole army, which through the somniferous influence of Morpheus, who had assumed the form of their general, was so far overpowered, that they slept in all positions, and situations. Several regiments drawn up in the field, in rank and file were all fast asleep, and snoring loudly; many squadrons of horse were in the same situation. The sentinels were standing at their posts fast asleep; and round the tent of Morpheus a crowd lay asleep three deep. The very birds as they flew over the camp dropped down in a deep sleep, and I saw several large fishes floating on the surface of the river in the same state. Our peacocks now began to nod, and we also grew very drowsy ourselves, when Iris thought it high time to get beyond the influence of the poppy crowned divinity, and immediately threw out ballast, when we again rose to our former elevation, and proceeded rapidly over the sea towards England; and we soon reached that happy country where liberty makes its last stand before it quits the world for ever; where genius and riches are united to bring all arts to a perfection, no where else approached; and where the men are renowned for probity and industry, and the women for the most perfect and universal beauty.

We passed over London, which lay directly in our way, but it was so enveloped by a thick cloud of smoke, that we could see little more of it but the dome of St. Pauls, and a few of the spires, which pierced through the sooty covering. We were soon afterwards wafted over the

fertile and highly cultivated fields of Buckingham, Warwickshire and Staffordshire, intersected by numerous canals bearing in all directions their produce, and that of the distant mines and collieries, together with the merchandise of remote nations; altogether producing a scene of fertility and improvement, that most resembled the perfection produced by the hand of Minerva in the island I had so lately quitted.

We next passed across Cheshire, and then launched out over the Irish Sea; we then crossed the Isle of Man, and soon after saw at a distance the lofty hills of Antrim. I now felicitated myself with the pleasures of returning to my native country (which every moment became more distinct to view) and of receiving the approbation of the ladies, who had sent me on this expedition for the zeal with which I had performed their commission, expecting to descend on terra firma in an hour or two at farthest, when I perceived something quit the land, and proceed upwards over the sea, directly towards the balloon; I soon however perceived that it bore some resemblance to the human form, but it was yet too indistinct to be known perfectly. At length it came near the balloon, and exhibited the fine appearance of a beautiful female figure, borne on powerful wings of a resplendent whiteness, her dress was perfect elegance itself, and on her head she wore a blue fillet on which the word *Amour* was inscribed in gold letters. She soon afterwards, by permission of Iris, entered the car, when the striking resemblance she bore to Serena astonished me, and made me suppose that this charming lady had acquired that celestial nature, which she before so nearly approached. She spoke to me with the most winning softness and enchanting smiles, and as soon as I could recover from the surprize, which her beauty and loveliness caused, I was going to inquire what errand had brought her from the heavenly regions, when it just occurred to me to make use of the glass which Serena had given me. When in an instant her beauty vanished, and she ap-

peared in the most frightful form I had ever beheld; her mouth became extended from ear to ear, and well furnished with long and sharp tusches; her eyes grew of vast diameter, and seemed to shoot forth sulphurous fires; and her late beautiful wings were turned to the leathern flaps of a demon; her hands, which before were so delicate, were converted into frightful phangs, covered with scales, each terminating in a large and sharp sting, from which black and fetid venom oused copiously; her fine dress vanished, and exhibited a hideous squalid and withered figure to view, her hair was changed into serpents, which hissed fearfully round her head, and the inscription on the fillet presented in the midst of them the word *Coqueterie* in letters of livid flame. I now knew that she was the genius of the tormenting art designed by this word, and trembled at her powers and hideous aspect, when seeming unconscious of the change, that had taken place, she gave a horrid grin, which she intended for a smile, and stretched out her claws with a kind air to take me by the hand; on which starting away from her detested touch, I forgot my situation, darted off too far, lost my balance, and was precipitated from the balloon some thousand feet downwards into the sea. I felt the wind rushing rapidly upwards against me as I fell, and the shock of the water when I touched it caused acute pain; I now sunk many feet beneath the surface of the ocean, and for some time experienced all the horrors of suffocation; at last I arose again above the waves, but there again I beheld the foul fiend, seated on an immense shark, which rushing forward with disended jaws, exhibiting numerous rows of the keenest teeth, threatened me with an instant and painful death; when the complication of terrors under which I laboured caused me suddenly to awake, and I found myself lying quietly on my bed, instead of floating on the ocean, and breakfast prepared for me below, instead of being myself the breakfast of a shark.

NEMORENSIS,

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

A HINT RESPECTING VACCINATION.

A FRIEND of mine lately communicated to me the following hint on vaccination. Like myself, he is not of the medical profession, but living in a populous neighbourhood near London, he practises vaccination among his poor neighbours. Knowing his exertions in this way, I had written to him for some information on the subject. He remarks, "One great point to attend to, is to take care that the matter is never taken later than the 5th or 6th day, that is, while it is perfectly limpid, and I think it may be well to vaccinate the other arm of the patient from the pustule on the first, as soon as matter can be well obtained. If the constitution is affected properly by the first vaccination, that is, if it be not a mere local inflammation, the second pustule will not proceed through the same stages as the first, but after exhibiting a similar appearance for a few days, will die away without forming either a sore, or a large scab, as the true cow pox does. The value of this mode consists in its affording a decisive and actual proof, that the constitution has been affected by the first vaccination, as evinced by the pustule in the second arm exhibiting the appearances I have mentioned, which I and many others have found uniformly to take place when the disorder has been effectually communicated." I hope, this hint may not be lost on those, who practise, though they are not of the profession, and that gentlemen of the faculty will not reject it, because it comes from

NON MEDICUS.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

GENTLEMEN,

I OBSERVE your monthly magazine to be the vehicle of many useful communications to the public. I therefore send you the three following queries for insertion, hoping some of your chemical readers will be so kind as to give them the most simple solution.

1st. How bleachers may know if

potash and barilla ash contain fixed air.

2d. How to separate fixed air from the lees of the above ashes.

3d. If the lees from said ashes are not freed from the fixed air they contain, how far using them in that state will retard their operation in the process of bleaching linen with them.

Lambeg.

M.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

IN addition to the interesting life of Dr. Geddes given in No. 17. I request you may communicate the inscription on his monument. The quotation so appropriately taken from his writings marks the man, and affords an instance of his liberality highly worthy of imitation.

"Rev. Alexander" Geddes L. L. D.

Translator of the Historical Books of the Old Testament,

Died February 26th 1802,

Aged 65.

"Christian is my name, and Catholic my surname." "I grant that you are a Christian as well as I, and embrace you as my fellow disciple of Jesus; and if you were not a disciple of Jesus, still I would embrace you as my fellow man."

Extracted from his works.

REQUIESCAT IN PACE.

This stone was erected by his friend Lord Petre, 1804.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

On the round Towers of Ireland, dedicated to the Memory of the late ancient Tower of Down.

THE first builders of lime and stone in Europe were the Pelasgi, who taught the Greeks this art, and called their structures tursei, from tur, a circular building; whence our word tower.* They built Bethsan or Scythopolis, so called by the Greeks, because built by Scythians,† part of the Pelasgi emigrated to the Grecian islands, built Athens and called it

* Potter.

† Pliny.

Astun or Astu, which in their language signifies permanent habitation; wherefore the Greeks were called Astoi, dwellers in durable houses.

Men of the same stock inhabited Tyre and Sidon, from whom colonies built Carthage and Cadiz, a fragment of a stone tower of their building still remains in the latter place supposed by the fabulous Greeks to be one of the pillars of Hercules. The Irish and Spanish historians† agree in declaring that colonies were frequently sent from Spain to Ireland, and that this country was thus originally colonized. Our historians likewise agree that the worship and language of the antient inhabitants of the Eastern shore of the Mediterranean wonderfully corresponded; that they were Pagans, worshipers of the Sun, that our mounds, the high places of the Phœnicians, and of the inhabitants of South America were places of meeting for this purpose, and on these their god Ball or Beal was worshipped. Plautus the author of many Latin plays, has preserved a valuable fragment of the Punic language in his play which he has named *Penulus*, and as the inhabitants of Phœnicia and Carthage were connected by consanguinity, language, and trade, we fairly conclude they were likewise by religion; if the same circumstances are found among the antient Irish, we may safely infer that other customs, as buildings dedicated to religion, were similar; that the Persians and Phœnicians, and Irish worshipped the Sun is not denied, and that the Phœnician and Carthagenean languages, and probably their worship were similar, the above mentioned fragment demonstrates. The scene of the play was laid in one of the Grecian islands; Hanno, a Carthagenean, is represented, having travelled thither in quest of his two daughters and his nephew Agorastocles, who were stolen from their natural guardians, and sold for slaves. After having travelled through many countries and islands in vain, he is represented addressing

the divinity of the country by prayer in his own language. General Vallancey has literally translated the passage as follows, in the *Collectanea de rebus Hibernicis*: the whole is sublimely beautiful, a small part of it is sufficient for our present purpose:

“Hide not from me the children of my loins. Grant me the pleasure of recovering Agorastocles. Behold, O heavenly spirit, these are the only joys I earnestly pray for. Take compassion on me, and grateful fires, on stone towers, will I ordain to blaze to heaven.”

The Pagan worship of the Sun did not long continue pure, this great source of heat, light and life was worshipped by the mediation of fire and other mean representations of the beams of the Sun. About six or seven hundred years before the Christian era, navigators from Phœnicia, Persia and Africa, associated on the coasts of the Mediterranean, and under the direction of priests or magicians attempted an improvement in the pure worship of the sun by the mediation of fire.

This perversion of the pure worship was brought about by force of arms, on the coast of the Mediterranean, and according to our Irish historians, in the same manner in this kingdom. Dr. Hyde, who studied this subject with minuteness declares, a sect of Persians called *Parsi* or *Guebri*, transferred at least a part of the Pagan worship to fire. They have an annual fire in the temple, whence they kindle all the fires in their houses; which are previously extinguished, and this was undoubtedly the use of the round towers so frequently to be met with in Ireland; which are certainly of Phœnician origin.

The Irish historians inform us that all common culinary fires were extinguished on Hallow-eve, and May-eve, and rekindled from the sacred fires.

Hence the first of May has been called *Beltin*, and by the Irish *La Beal Teinne*, the day of Beal's fire; and the month of May is named by the Irish *Mi Beal Teinne*, the month of Beal's fire. The words of *Hanno*

† De Campo Jean de Ferraras *Collectanea*, vol. v.

in the play, which signify stone towers in the punic language, are the same in Irish, *Lic tor*; and signify a tower of small stones, corresponding to our round towers; Dr Hyde farther relates that in the Saddar of Zerdust, the fire temple or tower is written *Aphrinughan*, the house of prayer. In Ireland it is written *Ti-afrión*, the house of blessing. The Irish historians declare that the sea champions mentioned above, made war upon the Ferbolgs six or 700 years before the Christian era, and overcame them so as to obtain a settlement among them, and that they corrupted the national worship of the sun, by adding the ceremony of worship by fire, at the same time.

They improved them in many arts, and particularly in building with lime and stone. As our round towers are acknowledged to be the most ancient structures built with lime cement, we have a certain date of the erection of them, and of the first uses made of them.

These towers are well adapted to the purpose of preserving fire, the entrances are several feet above the surface of the ground on which they stand, the fire is thus secured from the violence of storms.

I conclude from the authority of Dr. Hyde, illustrated and improved by General Vallancey, a sect of the Persians called *Parsi* or *Gueorf*, transferred at least a part of their pagan worship to fire. They have an annual fire in the temple, whence they kindle all the fires in their houses, which are previously extinguished; and this was undoubtedly the use of the round towers, so frequently to be met with in Ireland, which are certainly of Phœnician origin.

In the county of Antrim three still remain; those of Rams island, Antrim, and Armooy. In the county of Down, the tower of Drumboe, only remains; that of Down was entirely demolished; according to some by the order of an architect; according to others it fell a victim to electioneering squabbles.

The propagators of this religion said, they did not worship fire, nor the sun, but the Great Spirit, which dwells in them, which Hianpo in his

prayer addresses by the title of heavenly spirit. Be this as it may, its advocates had influence to get it established, for all fires were extinguished twice in the year, and rekindled at the sacred fires. Although the christian religion, was early known, yet this establishment continued in the North, till the 4th Century; * Priests or Magi, were stationed in each to dispense the fire, and to give blessings to people assembled.

It may be supposed the great distance of these towers from each other renders this account improbable; it should be considered, that the priests of Beal were very abundant, that chapels of ease would be erected in convenient places, and curates appointed to distribute the holy sparks, and collect dues as in Persia. *Hyde, p.355.* Of Ram's island, only 40 feet high remain; Antrim is entire, and is 80 feet high; the cupola is entire and is externally, perfectly conical; it is nearly cylindrical, tapering a little like a doric column toward the top. The door is toward the North, is six or seven feet above the rock on which it is founded; two feet wide, and five high; there are four openings toward the top, corresponding to the four cardinal points of the compass; it is hollow as they all are to the bottom. It is built with lime cement, there is no attempt at arch-work, a common stone lintel was supposed to answer the purpose, and but badly, for these are often broken. If the structure of arches had been then known, they would have been preferred to linteis in these important buildings. There is no appearance of timber, nor of holes for timber, from bottom to top: a loft has been lately made in it for the convenience of feeding pigeons.

The tower of Down stood 40 feet from the old cathedral, was eight feet wide, and the wall three feet thick; before it was demolished, only 66 feet of it remained; on the west side, about 10 feet from the top, there was an irregular hole broken out by time or accident. The eil of the door was near the surface of the ground, occasioned by an accession of rubbish

* Colgan in Triad. Thaum.

thrown to it, at the time of the alterations made upon the religious houses there, by the Earl of Ulster, and other innovators.

The question now is, were these towers used as belfries, or were belfries built for christian churches in imitation of them?

The first foreign writer, who was struck with the singular appearance of them, was Cambrensis, a firm adherent to the canons of the Latin church, prejudiced against the doctrine of the free and independent church of Ireland; he landed in this kingdom, only 12 years after the English invasion; he called them *Turres ecclesiasticas*, because they were found near churches, and old graveyards, his words are, *Turres ecclesiasticas, quæ more Patriæ, arcta sunt & alta, nec non rotundæ*. Ecclesiastical towers, which after the fashion of the country, are slender, high, and round: taking ecclesiastical in the most extensive sense, belonging to a meeting for religious worship, it does not determine the time of the erection, nor particular use for which they were intended. Many of our antiquarians pretending to superior knowledge, as Molyneux, have declared, or guessed they were built by the Danes; sometimes for watch towers; at other times for belfries; the expressions of Cambden, is unfavourable to the first, they are ecclesiastical. Dr. Ledwich has discovered what no one ever did venture to say; no one but a man of his fancy could have discovered, from the grammatical construction of the words, that Cambrensis saw the Irish in the very act of building these towers.

Molyneux supposes they were belfries built by the Danes, but Cambrensis declares they were built *more patriæ*, according to the custom of the country; he farther attempts to prove this probable from the name given them in some countries, *Clogahd*, which is derived from a Saxon word, *Clugga*, a bell. Whoever has read Bede, the Anglo-Saxon, must know, the Saxons of England received their religion and manner of worship from the Irish, and that after they turned to the Roman see, the Irish

refused all connection with them, it is unnecessary to prove in this place that the Irish neither received letters nor learning from the Saxons. *Clogahd* is derived from the Irish *Cluicam*, to assemble, and so is the Saxon *Clugga*, which name the Anglo-saxons continued after they apostatized, from the doctrines and worship of the Church of Ireland, to the canons, rites and ceremonies of the Latin church. It is absurd to suppose that the Irish who converted the Anglo-saxons, borrowed the name from them: Cambrensis, did not call them Saxon, for he said they were built more *patriæ*. The Persian name of such towers is *Deri Mughan*, a temple of the Magi, the Irish *Deire-Mogh*. They are properly called *Clogahd*, from *Cluicam*, to assemble, the name is given after bells have been put into them by christian assemblies: and several places of christian worship, have a similar name, where bells never were. They might properly be called *Cloghad*, even before bells were put into them, because they were by their height directors to lead the people the shortest way to religious meetings. That christian converts assembled for worship at these ancient structures is probable, and perhaps the doors of some have been altered agreeable to the Gothic taste, but that any of them was built since the Christian era, no one can reasonably assert. Cambrensis, prejudiced against every thing relating to the Greek church, and in favour of the Danes who remained in Ireland, and were zealous advocates for the rites of the Latin church, would have informed him if they had the honour of erecting these buildings of which he took so much notice, and so particularly described. The proofs taken from Cambrensis, or from any other that the ancient round towers of Ireland were the work of the Danes, are fallacious; farther, the Danes never erected such in their own country, nor in England, which they possessed longer than they did Ireland.

Dr. Ledwich treated this subject at length, and with warmth and intemperate zeal. In imitation of Molyneux, overlooking authors upon the

Eastern ecclesiastical antiquities, has imagined that the ancient Irish round towers were built by the Danes, without attending to the great work of the learned Dr. Hyde upon the structure and extensive use of the Persian Pyrethræ, he has by assertion confined them to very limited bounds. In the 165th page of his 4to. on the antiquities of Ireland, he has described the labours of the great antiquarian, General Vallancey, in a Rhodomontade and cavalier-like stile, thus:

"I shall now close this chronological account of learned conjectures on the round towers in Ireland, with the reveries of a living author, whose wild flights go beyond all his predecessors, or even those of the celebrated knight of La Mancha. The latter imagined that mounted on a wooden horse he was carried through the air to succour the injured Doloris; just so our literary quixotte mounted on his papyracious steed, made up of oriental lexicons, travels in quest of his long lost Irish." Is this language becoming a divine, who has L.L.D. tacked to his name? Is it like an impartial writer who has argument and reason on his side? Is it not a flourish, like a bully calling out, who is afraid? whoever takes the trouble of reading this author's essay on this subject, in the *Collectanea de rebus Hibernicis*, and Vallancey's observations upon it, will see that he has no other way of defending himself and his party but by fretfulness and passion.

Thomas Campbell, L.L.D. a disciple of the same school, has published strictures on the ecclesiastical history of Ireland; and like other writers of his party, founds his arguments upon supposition; thus in the 229th page.

"The oldest of our round towers was not *probably* earlier than the ninth century, and we may *suppose* that none were built after the 12th. They would *naturally* go into disrepute, as soon as they began to build their religious fabricks of stone and lime. In the preceding period, a country which affected no other building of such durable matter, whether in castle or house, church or monastery, must have been destitute of stone masons: *consequently* these round towers must have been built, either by Danish mechanicks, or by masons

brought from beyond sea. Nor let my countrymen be scandalized at this imputation, when they reflect that Solomon was obliged to apply to Hiram for Tyrian artificers to build the temple at Jerusalem." These suppositious, and imaginary conclusions the author wishes we should suppose founded upon historical facts. Those facts so far as connected with the conclusions, we shall calmly and impartially examine.

1st. The apology he makes for the degradation of his countrymen.—"Solomon applied to the king of Tyre for workmen to build the temple at Jerusalem." If we would find in America, or in Asia, the inhabitants of a whole country or kingdom speaking English, and having similar religious rites and similar complexions to those of the Britains, we would no doubt say, the country was colonised from the Britains. We are assured from history, that the Carthaginians were a colony from Tyre, and we are assured from the prayer of Hanno that the Carthaginian and Irish languages were, if not the same, at least dialects of the same language, and from history we are certain they both worshipped by fire, that the people of the East had stone towers for the preservation of sacred fire, and that the name of the Eastern fire towers, and of our round towers are similar, and appertain to the same language. Whoever has seen drawings of the Pyrethræ of the Persians must be struck with the similarity of the appearance of them, and of our ancient round towers, taking care to observe, temples are represented surrounding the Persian and not the Irish, and as the Cupolas of the Persian seem to be of cut stone, they are externally and internally circular. The openings near the top of the Persian and of our towers are precisely the same: but not as supposed by Dr. L. and Dr. C. to let out the sound of a bell like our dinner bell, but to let out the smoke of the sacred fire: the covering of the top prevented heavy rains from extinguishing it.* Is it possible that any one who has considered all these similarities, can

* Hyde *Historia Religionis veterum Persarum* p. 360. Thavenotus in itinerrario.

deny or refuse his assent to this proposition, that the Irish, Carthaginians, and Syrians were all from the same stock? They had the same religion and similar arts, that they had no occasion to apply to the Danes nor to Hiram for artificers to build their Pyrea. They had the art from the artificers who built the Pyrea of the East, and the ancient tower of Cadiz. These authors suppose "our round towers were not built earlier than the ninth century—because they effected no other building of such durable materials." Let those authors descend into our subterraneous caves, and they shall find them well built with rubble stone, or let them ascend into the second cave, in the Cave-hill, near Belfast, and they will conclude they shall have no occasion to run into forests or woods, to look for the principles of the Gothick arch; they will at the same time recollect, that Ovid, who they believe is an orthodox author, has said, that in the primitive ages men had caves for houses; and conclude, the first inhabitants of this kingdom had habitations of very durable materials.

Dr. C. in 228th page, has written that we have seen that from the introduction of christianity, the churches and monasteries in Ireland were built of wood, and wattles, and sods.

Ireland was so full of the favourite oak that great encouragement was given to all who built with it. English settlers were often bound in their leases to cut a certain quantity of it every year. The above assertion was founded upon a mis-construction of part of the life of Malachy (Morgair, by Bernard. That he was the first who erected a building of lime and stone at Bangor, about the year 1145, Bernard does not say in Ireland, but at Bangor, the words, Malachy thought proper to build a stone oratory at Bangor, such as he had seen in aliis regionibus, in other provinces, or parts of Ireland. Our author did not chuse to quote Kenan, or Cainan, who built a church of stone at Damliag, or Duleek, four miles from Drogheda, from which Damleag took its name. Diamh, in the old Irish, signifies a great house, and therefore is often put for a church, and leag, a stone,

* Cainan died in 489, from comparing this with Bede† and Wm. of Malmesbury, who declare the English began to build with stone and lime in the year 675, 200 years at least later than stone churches in Ireland.

The first stone churches in Ireland were as the stone towers built Patriæ more. They were intended to endure the attacks of storm and fire, their roofs were semicircular stone arches; one of those remained time immemorial, in Bally Philip, near Portlerry, till pulled down by an English school-master, for the stone to build a hall-alley.

"The cylindrical shape, destitute of all beauty, discovers no skill in architecture." In a wooded country such as Ireland then was, they were the greatest ornaments; they appear above the trees, in the same proportion as the Persian pyrethræ appear above their temples. That they require no skill in architecture, is certainly a mistake, when he considers that the plumb-rule must be applied in laying each stone. The form of our Gothic spires, like bayonets, representing churches militant, is not to be compared to our ancient long-boasted structures.

Page 412, of your Monthly Magazine, dated Dec. 31, I find a sentence which, if properly ascertained, would determine the dispute, at least so far as relates to the old tower of Down; by demonstrating that it was not ancient, but more modern than some of our religious houses.

"It is remarkable that under the foundation of this tower, were found the vestiges of a more ancient church, of exceeding good mason work, and on a larger scale than the present structure, in the walls of which were many pieces of cut stone; that evidently have been used in some former building."

This assertion being contrary to every account I have read of these towers, I thought it possible that your correspondent Dunensis, might have been an eyewitness of these facts.

* Off. St. Canan, Ware antiq. chap. 29. 1st Ed.

† Hist. abb. Wermouth. p. 27.

‡ De gest. R. Angl. lib. 1.

but upon inquiry, I find the whole is founded upon misinformation, and was taken from the 289 page of the Statistical Survey of the County of Down, lately published. The learned author of this work, produces his authority, that this curious circumstance, was observed by several gentlemen at the assizes of said year.

The manner in which this author has mentioned this report, and his relation of the appearance of vitrification towards the bottom of the tower of Drumboe, and his concluding these accounts with a note from C. V. convince me he apprehended some mistake in the view the gentlemen had taken of the tower of Down; the Statistical account is—

“When the tower was thrown down in 1790, and cleared away to the foundation, another foundation was discovered under it, and running directly across the site of the tower, which appeared to be a continuation of the church wall, which at some period previous to the building of the tower, seemed to have extended considerably beyond it. This curious circumstance was observed by several

gentlemen at the Spring assizes in the above mentioned year.”

These facts, if ascertained, are of great importance in determining the dispute; therefore I applied to John Bret, esq. of Down, who assured me, there was no truth in the above assertions. I applied likewise to Mr. Arthur Gamble, who was overseer of the work from first to last, who is now in the Custom house, Dublin: he declared no foundations of any other building were found under it; it was founded upon firm clay.

“At some former time, very strong fires have been burnt within the building: i.e. within the tower of Drumboe. The inside surface, towards the bottom, has the appearance of vitrification.”

The author of the Statistical survey, concludes this article, with a note from our learned antiquarian, C. V. and with which we shall conclude this essay. “I have caused the ground floor of many to be opened, and ashes of burnt wood, have been found, the remains of the perpetual fire kept burning in the bottom, in honour of the deity, the Sun.” M.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF DISTINGUISHED PERSONS.

ACCOUNT OF ANTHONY BENEZET OF PHILADELPHIA, A ZEALOUS ADVOCATE FOR THE ABOLITION OF THE SLAVE TRADE. EXTRACTED FROM CLARKSON'S INTERESTING HISTORY OF THE ABOLITION OF THE AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE.

LET others recount the deeds of warriors; it is more consolatory to record the unwearied exertions of the friends of peace and philanthropy, whose aim is to dedicate themselves to the cause of humanity, and to promote the happiness of their fellow men, and relieve them from unmerited sufferings.

Anthony Benezet was born at St. Quintin in Picardy, of a respectable family, in the year 1713. His father was one of the many Protestants, who, in consequence of the perse-

cutions which followed the revocation of the edict of Nantz, sought an asylum in foreign countries. After a short stay in Holland, he settled with his wife and children in London, in 1715.

Anthony Benezet, having received from his father a liberal education, served an apprenticeship in an eminent mercantile house in London.—In 1731, however, he removed with his family to Philadelphia, where he joined in profession with the Quakers. His three brothers then engaged in trade, and made considerable pecuniary acquisitions in it. He himself might have partaken both of their concerns and of their prosperity;—but he did not feel himself at liberty to embark in their undertakings. He considered the accumulation of wealth as of no importance, when compared

with the enjoyment of doing good; and he chose the humble situation of a school master, according best with this notion, believing, that by endeavouring to train up youth in knowledge and virtue, he should become more extensively useful than in any other way, to his fellow-creatures.

He had not been long in his new situation, before he manifested such an uprightness of conduct, such a courtesy of manners, such a purity of intention, and such a spirit of benevolence, that he attracted the notice, and gained the good opinion of the inhabitants among whom he lived. He had ready access to them in consequence, upon all occasions; and if there were any whom he failed to influence at any of these times, he never went away without the possession of their respect.

In the year 1756, when a considerable number of French families were removed from Acadia into Pennsylvania, on account of some political suspicions, he felt deeply interested about them. In a country where few understood their language, they were wretched and helpless;—but Anthony Benezet endeavoured to soften the rigour of their situation, by his kind attention towards them. He exerted himself also in their behalf by procuring many contributions for them, which by the consent of his fellow citizens, were entrusted to his care.

As the principle of benevolence, when duly cultivated, brings forth fresh shoots, and becomes enlarged, so we find this amiable person extending the sphere of his usefulness, by becoming an advocate for the oppressed African race. For this service he seems to have been peculiarly qualified. Indeed as in all great works a variety of talents is necessary to bring them to perfection, so Providence seems to prepare different men as instruments, with dispositions and qualifications so various, that each in pursuing that line which seems to suit him best, contributes to furnish those parts, which when put together, make up a complete whole. Anthony Benezet went to the root of the evil, and attacked the Slave

trade; when he wrote, he did not write for America only, but for Europe also, and endeavoured to spread a knowledge and hatred of the traffic through the great society of the world. One of the means which he took to promote the cause in question (and an effectual one it proved, as far as it went) was to give his scholars a due knowledge and proper impressions concerning it. Situated as they were likely to be, in after life, in a country where slavery was a custom, he thus prepared many, and this annually, for the promotion of his plans.

To enlighten others, and to give them a similar bias, he had recourse to different measures from time to time.

In the almanacs published annually in Philadelphia, he procured articles to be inserted, which he believed would attract the notice of the reader, and make him pause, at least for a while as to the licitness of the Slave-trade. He wrote also as he saw occasion, in the public papers of the day. From small things he proceeded to greater. He collected at length further information on the subject, and winding it up with observations and reflections, he produced several little tracts, which he circulated successively (but generally at his own expense) as he considered them adapted to the temper and circumstances of the times.

In the course of this his employment, having found some who had approved his tracts, and to whom, on that account, he wished to write, and sending his tracts to others, to whom he thought it proper to introduce them by letter, he found himself engaged in a correspondence, which much engrossed his time, but which proved of great importance in procuring many advocates for his cause.

In 1762, when he had obtained a still greater store of information, he published a larger work. This however he entitled, "A short account of that part of Africa inhabited by the Negroes." In 1767 he published, "A caution and warning to Great Britain and her Colonies, on the calamitous state of the enslaved Negroes in the British Dominions."

and soon after this appeared, "An Historical Account of Guinea, its situation, produce, and the general disposition of its inhabitants; with an inquiry into the rise and progress of the Slave trade, its nature and calamitous effects." This pamphlet contained a clear and distinct development of the subject, from the best authorities. It contained also the sentiments of many enlightened men upon it, and it became instrumental, beyond any other book ever before published, in disseminating a proper knowledge and detestation of this trade.

Anthony Benezet may be considered as one of the most zealous, vigilant and active advocates which the cause of the oppressed Africans ever had. He seemed to have been born and to have lived, for the promotion of it; and therefore he never omitted the least opportunity of serving it. If a person called upon him, who was going a journey, his first thoughts usually were, how he could make him an instrument in its favour; and he either gave him tracts to distribute, or he sent letters by him, or he gave him some commission on the subject, so that he was the means of employing several persons at the same time, in various parts of America, in advancing the work he had undertaken.

In the same manner he availed himself of every other circumstance, as far as he could to the same end. When he heard that Mr. Granville Sharp,* had obtained, in the year

* Granville Sharp, being greatly affected at some very cruel treatment of the Africans, saw no means which would so effectually assist them, as devoting himself to the study of the law, he therefore determined immediately to give up two or three years to the study of the English law, that he might the better advocate the cause of these miserable people, and refute the sophistry of many professional men, the advocates of slavery. James Somerset, an African slave, had been brought to England, by his master, Charles Stewart, in November 1769. Somerset in process of time left him, Stewart took an opportunity of seizing him, and had him conveyed on board a ship, to be carried out of the kingdom, and sold as a slave in Jamaica. The question was, "whether a slave, by coming into England

1772, the noble verdict in the cause of Somerset the slave, he opened a correspondence with him, which he kept up, that there might be an union of action between them for the future, as far as it could be effected, and that they might give encouragement to each other to proceed. He opened also a correspondence with George Whitfield, and John Wesley, that these might assist him in promoting the cause of the oppressed. He also wrote a letter to the Countess of Huntingdon, on the following subject. She had founded a college, at the recommendation of George Whitfield, called the Orphan house, near Savannah, in Georgia, and had endowed it. The object of this institution was, to furnish scholastic instruction to the poor, and to prepare some of them for the ministry. George Whitfield, ever attentive to the cause of the poor Africans, thought that this institution might have been

became free?" The case was argued at three different sittings; in Hilary, Easter, and Trinity terms 1772, and the great and glorious result of the trial was, that as soon as ever any slave set his foot upon English territory, he became free. Thus ended the great case of Somerset, which having been determined after a deliberate investigation of the law, can never be reversed while the British constitution remains. The eloquence displayed in it, by those who were engaged on the side of liberty, was perhaps never exceeded on any occasion. By means of the benevolent friends of the distressed Africans, a Negro ceased to be hunted in the streets as a beast of prey; miserable as the roof might be, under which he slept, he slept in security. He walked by the side of the ship, and he feared no dungeon in her hold. Nor ought Englishmen to be less grateful to these distinguished individuals, than the Africans ought to be on this occasion. To them, and Mr. Sharp in particular, we owe it, that we no longer see our public papers polluted by hateful advertisements of the sale of the human species, or that we are no longer distressed by the perusal of impious rewards for bringing back the poor, and the helpless into slavery; or that we are prohibited the disgusting spectacle of seeing man, bought by his fellow-man. To Mr. Sharp, we owe the preservation of the beauty of our constitution, this prevention of the continuance of our national disgrace.

useful to them also; but soon after his death, they who succeeded him, bought slaves in unusual numbers, to extend the rice and tobacco plantations belonging to the college. The letter then in question was written by Anthony Benezet, in order to lay before the Countess, as a religious woman, the misery she was occasioning in Africa, by allowing the managers of her college in Georgia, to give encouragement to the slave-trade. The Countess replied, that such a measure should never have her countenance, and that she would take care to prevent it.

On discovering that the Abbé Raynal had brought out his celebrated work, in which he manifested a tender feeling in behalf of the injured Africans, he entered into a correspondence with him, hoping to make him yet more useful to their cause.

Finding also, in the year 1783, that the slave trade, which had greatly declined during the American war, was reviving, he addressed a pathetic letter to the Queen of England, who on hearing the high character of the writer of it, from Benjamin West, received it with marks of peculiar condescension and attention. The following is a copy of it.

"To Charlotte, Queen of Great Britain;

"Impressed with a sense of religious duty, and encouraged by the opinion generally entertained of thy benevolent disposition to succour the distressed; I take the liberty very respectfully, to offer to thy perusal some tracts, which I believe, faithfully describe the suffering condition of many hundred thousands of our fellow creatures of the African race, great numbers of whom, rent from every tender connexion in life, are annually taken from their native land, to endure, in the American Islands, and plantations, a most rigorous and cruel slavery; whereby many, very many of them, are brought to a melancholy and untimely end.

"When it is considered that the inhabitants of Great Britain, who are themselves so eminently blessed in the enjoyment of religious and civil liberty, have been long, and yet are,

very deeply concerned in this flagrant violation of the common rights of mankind, and that even its national authority is exerted in support of the African slave trade, there is much reason to apprehend, that this has been, and, as long as the evil exists will continue to be, an occasion of drawing down the divine displeasure on the nation and its dependencies. May these considerations induce thee to interpose thy kind endeavours in behalf of this greatly injured people, whose abject situation gives them an additional claim to the pity and assistance of the generous mind, inasmuch as they are altogether deprived of the means of soliciting effectual relief for themselves; that so thou mayest not only be a blessed instrument in the hand of him "by whom kings reign, and princes decree justice," to avert the awful judgments by which the empire has already been so remarkably shaken, but that the blessing of thousands ready to perish may come upon thee, at a time when the superior advantages attendant on thy situation in this world, will no longer be of any avail to thy consolation and support.

"To the tracts on this subject to which I have thus ventured to crave thy particular attention, I have added some which at different times I have believed it my duty to publish,* and which, I trust, will afford thee some satisfaction, their design being for the furtherance of that universal peace and good will amongst men, which the gospel was intended to introduce.

I hope thou wilt kindly excuse the freedom used on this occasion by an ancient man, whose mind, for more than forty years past, has been much separated from the common intercourse of the world, and long painfully exercised in the consideration of the miseries under which so large a part of mankind, equally with us objects of redeeming love, are suffering the most unjust and grievous oppression, and who sincerely desires thy temporal and eternal felicity, and that of thy royal consort.

Anthony Benezet."

* These related to the principles of the Society of Quakers.

Anthony Benézet, besides the care he bestowed upon forwarding the cause of the oppressed Africans in different parts of the world, found time to promote the comforts and improve the condition of those in the state in which he lived. Apprehending that much advantage would arise both to them and the public, from instructing them in common learning, he zealously promoted the establishment of a school for that purpose. Much of the two last years of his life he devoted to a personal attendance on this school, being earnestly desirous that they who came to it might be better qualified for the enjoyment of that freedom to which great numbers of them had been then restored. To this he sacrificed the superior emoluments of his former school, and his bodily ease also, although the weakness of his constitution seemed to demand indulgence. By his last will he directed, that, after the decease of his widow, his whole little fortune (the savings of the industry of fifty years) should, except a few very small legacies, be applied to the support of it. During his attendance upon it, he had the happiness to find, (and his situation enabled him to make the comparison) that providence had been equally liberal to the Africans in genius and talents as to other people.

After a few days illness this excellent man died at Philadelphia in the Spring of 1784. The interment of his remains was attended by several thousands of all ranks, professions, and parties, who united in deploring their loss. The mournful procession was closed by some hundreds of those poor Africans, who had been personally benefited by his labours, and whose behaviour on the occasion showed the gratitude and affection they considered to be due to him as their own private benefactor, as well as the benefactor of their whole race.

Having given a sketch of this interesting advocate of the Africans, it may be permitted to express satisfaction that a law has been passed by the imperial parliament to put an end to the further importation of slaves into the British dominions. It affords encouragement to perse-

verence in a just cause, that justice although long counteracted by prejudice and interest may be expected finally to triumph, if its advocates do not relax in their efforts, but with virtuous energy continue their exertions. Yet although some of the objects of the abolitionists are obtained by the law already passed, much remains to be done, as well to extend the benefits more fully, as also to guard against the evasions practised by those, whose views of avarice and sordid interest lead them to desire its discontinuance. The friends of philanthropy must not sleep on their posts. Already a society is established under the name of the African institution to watch over the interests and to redress the wrongs of our sable brethren.

As connected with this subject, and trusting that good may result from the information proposed to be communicated in the treatise adverted to in the following advertisement, we beg leave to present it to the attention of our readers.

(To be shortly published, if encouraged by an adequate subscription) A plan for the mitigation of slavery.

Delineated, in a series of letters by the late Hon. Joshua Steele, of Barbadoes, the last and fullest of which was addressed to the editor, William Dickson, L.L.D. formerly secretary to his excellency Governor Hay, of that Island, and author of "Letters on Slavery," &c.

Wherein Mr. Steele describes the methods by which, he gradually raised the slaves on his three sugar plantations, to a condition nearly resembling that of industrious hired servants;* with striking instances of the success of the plough in cultivating the sugar-cane; and other new and important articles.

The editor, during a long residence in the West Indies, was convinced not only of the humanity, but the policy, of putting an end to the African slave-trade: and, on that conviction, he acted for many years, along with the abolition committee of London.

That measure promised much benefit to Africa; but its effects, in remedy-

* But Mr. Steele's plan does not extend to the emancipation of the slaves.

ing the evils of the West Indian slavery, were never likely to fulfil the too sanguine hopes which some worthy people entertained. For many of those evils, having no kind of connection with the African slave-trade, could not possibly be remedied by its abolition. Hence that aged and wise Barbadoes planter, the Hon. J. Steele, states that, unless the laws and customs of our colonists were altered, their slaves would be but little relieved by the abolition of the trade, and still less by a mere parliamentary inquiry:—the total inefficacy of which has been accordingly proved by the deplorable facts which Lord Seaforth as governor of Barbadoes, thought it his duty to communicate to his majesty's ministers, in 1804, and 1805; and by other authorities. Yet negro slavery is as mild in that old colony, as it is ever likely to become, under the general West Indian system of forced human labour, and of laws which admit not the evidence of blacks and mulattoes against whites, in any criminal cases whatsoever.

Since the abolition-act took place, the editor hath seen no reason to alter the opinions which he held, in common with Mr. S. and his other respectable West Indian correspondents, before that act existed. For, as far as he can learn, no efficient colonial statute has, to this hour, been passed, to co-operate with the abolition-act; or to ensure a natural supply of vigorous labourers, by improving their condition, physical, civil, and religious.

Is there not then great reason to fear that, in a few years, the planters, finding their negroes decrease (under their own bad laws and customs) will come and represent to parliament the failure of the experiment of abolition, and the necessity of renewing the slave-trade?

But every plea for such renewal would be obviated by Mr. S's description of the mischiefs of those laws and customs, to the morals of the poor whites, and the property of the planters; to the well being, and the very lives, of the negro race. Like many other absentees, Mr. S. had suffered most grievously ("particularly in the destruction of his negroes," for 30 years before he had ever

seen his estates) from the extreme latitude of abuse, permitted by those extraordinary laws. But, despairing of their timely repeal, he resolved on trying to improve the condition, and consequently the labouring ability, of the slaves on his three sugar plantations. To work them, as usual, "under the whip," was repugnant to his principles, and, as he believed, to his interest; and to free them suddenly, would have been an act of madness. He therefore took the middle course, of rendering them, as far as an individual could, what he calls "Copy-hold Bond-slaves." Prohibiting the whip, he secured their obedience by mild but effectual means; and, after various trials, he gave them portions of good land, and regular wages. He assures the editor, that "his copy-holders were all contented and succeeded even beyond his own expectation." And, incredible as it may appear to some, this plan, as Mr. S. clearly proves, produced a great saving of expense and other advantages: which his brother planters may make their own, by establishing the plan on their estates.

The glut of sugar, produced by means of the slave-trade, has been abundantly proved by others, to be the immediate cause of the misfortunes of the sugar planters. In other words, excessive cultivation, by the unhappy survivors of unexampled multitudes of new negroes, has rendered the returns of sugar-estates inadequate to the necessarily enormous expense of the feeble and heartless labour, extracted from slaves, badly fed, unpaired, and unaided by cattle! In the proposed work, it will be demonstrated that the personal labour of *bond-slaves*, in general, has long ago ceased to refund their purchase money! Proprietors, therefore, to avoid certain ruin, must henceforth rear their slaves instead of buying them, from the creditors of their precursors on the high road to bankruptcy, and from other West Indian sellers;—to stop nothing of the attempts to introduce slaves from Africa, in spite of the abolition law, and which the meritorious Clarkson is now labouring to counteract. The vast utility of the plough in raising the sugar-cane, with

proved by the successful practice of the planters in the East Indies; and by that of several prudent proprietors in the West. For the abridgement of human labour is not, in general, to be expected from those representatives of absentees, and others, who possess profitable "jobbing gangs," or have negroes to sell, or to let out;—and whose gain is the loss, and too often the ruin, of absent proprietors. The work will also contain the observations of some skillful sugar-planters, on the means of feeding the cattle and horses which work the plough.

The editor has suppressed Mr. S's papers these 19 years; lest they should impede the abolition of the slave-trade. But their publication is now favoured by that amiable prince, his Royal highness the duke of Gloucester, and by many respectable individuals; so that a subscription may be hoped for, which will render the undertaking safe for the editor,

October, 1809: WILLIAM DICKSON.

It is proposed to print the work in 4to. price one guinea in boards, payable on delivery.—Should the clear profits bear any reasonable proportion to certain labours, losses, and sufferings, a part of such profits will be

employed in a way, or ways, which cannot fail to be agreeable to every conscientious abolitionist, and even to every liberal West Indian.

Country subscribers are requested to signify where their copies are to be left. It will of course, be most convenient to deliver them in London, Edinburgh, and Dublin.

As it will not be easy to circulate this paper extensively, gentlemen who receive it, are respectfully requested to show it to such of their neighbours as may be likely to subscribe, and to transmit their subscriptions, in one letter;—along with any well authenticated instances they may possess, of late improvements in the West Indian agriculture.

The names of subscribers will be published; unless directions are received from individuals to the contrary.

Subscriptions are received in London, by Messrs. Longman, Hurst, Rees, and Orme, booksellers, Paternoster-row; in Edinburgh, by Mr. John Anderson, bookseller, Exchange; and by Mr. George Miller, Nicholson Square; and in Dublin, by Mr. Martin Keene, Bookseller, College green; and by Messrs. Archer and Wirling, Belfast.

DETACHED ANECDOTES.

A NOBLE EXAMPLE TO INDEPENDENT ELECTORS.

IN 1807, after Wm. Roscoe, esq. had declined continuing a candidate at the election of members of parliament for Liverpool; Thomas Green a respectable inhabitant of that town, asserted the right of electors to choose whom they please, and kept the poll open for several days to receive the unbiassed suffrages of those who unsolicited inclined to vote for the popular candidate, even after Mr. Roscoe had thought proper to withdraw from

the contest. Previously Thomas Green thus addressed his brother freemen. "Freemen, our rights are openly and insolently invaded; we must repel this attack; we have no leaders; no protectors. Indeed to ourselves it is of little or no consequence, as we shall soon be laid in our graves, but we have children and families to whom we ought to deliver these rights unimpaired. We are poor: we have no purse, but we have a cause, *aye* a good cause: and let us ably defend it, meet me to-morrow at the hustings."

ORIGINAL POETRY.

ODE TO WINTER.

IN flakes descends the fleecy snow,
The stagnate waters cease to flow,
Bound up in chains of frost;
One glaring white does earth o'erspread,
The vegetative powers seem dead,
And for a time are lost.

Deprived of sap and leaves, the tress
Bending beneath the wintry breeze,
As withered trunks appear,
Except the fir and baleful yew,
The holly; ivy, laurel too,
Their summer livery wear.

Industrious labour's at a stand,
No plough can penetrate the land,
Nor spade pervade the soil,
The labourer now deprived of bread,
Sits listless in his humble shed,
Nor plies his useful toil.

Half naked round the little fire,
His children crouch—well pleased the sire
The tattered groupe surveys;
His patient wife turns round her wheel,
Nor seems the piercing cold to feel,
So they enjoy the blaze.

Yon shivering, homeless wanderer, see,
Bent down with age and poverty,
She begs her bitter bread,
Her scanty cloak can't shield from cold.
Patched rags her shrivelled limbs unfold,
She trembling seems half dead.

Yet once she had a dwelling place,
Was mother to a num'rous race,
Of sons and daughters fair,
By cruel war, of sons bereft,
And now alas no daughter left,
A parent's griefs to share.

Now ope the hospitable door,
Ye sons of wealth and bid the poor,
Be warmed and clothed, and fed;
So will the Lord your store increase,
And shed prosperity and peace,
And blessings round your head.

LYDIA.

TRANSLATION OF BARREAU'S VERSES.*

THE judgments of thy providence,
Great God, are just and right;
And to be merciful and kind,
Is ever thy delight.

But never can thy pardoning grace
Such sins as mine forgive;
For justice cannot yield her rights,
Nor grant that I should live.

The greatness, of my crimes, my God,
For mercy leaves no room;
But arms with terrors thy right hand,
To seal my righteous doom.

The honour of thy throne forbids,
That life I should enjoy;
And even thy clemency expects,
That thou shalt me destroy.

Then do thy will, since 'twill promote
The glories of thy sway;
And from the tears which now I shed
In anger turn away.

'Tis time, strike, now thy thunder hurl,
On my devoted head:
Yet falling I'll adore the power,
Which strikes salvation dead.

Pay vengeance due; yet where shall fall
Thy thunder from above,
That is not hallowed with the blood
Of the Redeemer's love?

ANGELICUS.

EPIAPH.

ON A TOMBSTONE IN LOUGH-LOMEND
CHURCH-YARD.

*Written by a Mother on the loss of an In-
fant Son.*

'T WAS when the primrose hail'd the in-
fant year;
When all was anxious eye and listening
ear,
My sweet rose bud reclin'd his weary
head,
And here he lies amongst the silent
dead.

Uncertain life, how transient is thy
show,
How high thy projects and thy end how
low,
This day in health, a country's pride and
boast,
Perhaps, tomorrow mingled with the
dust.

TO LUCY;

A VALENTINE.

HOW sweet the opening rose expands,
Its fragrance through the morning air,
Its softness tempts our eager hands,
No gem can with its tint compare.

Emblem of Lucy's ripening charms,
Each day still adds a beauty more,
Already every heart she warms,
Those love, who but admired before.

But not unto her form alone,
Should praises justly be confined;
Though so near beauties summit grows,
It equals not her lovelier mind.

True, gentle, humble, modest worth,
With innocence, and virtue too,
Conspicuous in her shine forth;
Thus she delights both thought and view.

The eastern poets sweetly sing,
How the enamoured nightingale,
Soars o'er the rose with restless wing,
To guard it from too rough a gale.

Oh! how delighted should I be,
Like him to watch a lovelier rose,
To imitate this care for thee,
And every threatening ill oppose.

But if the fates severe refuse,
Such happiness should e'er be mine,
May they one far superior chuse,
For charming Lucy's Valentine.

HELIOSTROPUS.*

The following version in Latin, of a popular English ballad, is inserted for the amusement of those who are acquainted with the learned languages. It is chiefly remarkable for its exact coincidence with the original, both in sense and metre; and if it ever before appeared in print, it is without the knowledge of the writer. It was composed many years ago, by an unknown member of one of the English universities, who also made a translation of it equally exact into the Greek language, which shall be inserted on some future opportunity. The original ballad is added, to enable an estimate of its correctness to be formed by those, who have not before seen it.

SHENKINI QUESTUS.

PRÆCLARUS ortu Shenkin,
Ex stirpe Theodori,
Sed sessit a me
Splendor famæ,
Veneris furor.

Splendens Winifridæ
Ocelli percussere,
Cor heu crudeli
Ictu teli,
Desperat ars mederi.

Tam clausus fuit nemo
Ceu pili, ceu Baccilli;
Cursum equestri,
Vel pedestri,
Haud quisquam compar ihi.

Nunc gaudios fegerant,
Emaciantur genæ;
Cor heu sic dolet,
Non ut solet,
Tam cape olet bene.

Non usquam deglutienda
Promulsis de Montgomery;
Si cessat quies
Plus sex dies,
Eternum valet Flammery.

THE ORIGINAL BALLAD.

SHENKIN'S COMPLAINT.

OF a noble race was Shenkin,
Of the line of Owen Tudor,
But hur renown
Is fled and gone,
Since cruel love pursued hur.

Sweet Winny's cheeks bright shining,
And snowy breast alluring,
Poor Shenkin's heart,
With fatal dart,
Has wounded past all curing.

Hur was the prattiest fellow,
At stool ball, or at cricket,
At hunting chase,
Or uimble race,
Ye gods how hur could prick it.

But now all joys are flying,
All pale and wan hur cheeks too;
Hur heart so aches,
Hur quite forsakes
Hur herrings and hur leeks too.

No more shall sweet Metheglin,
Be drank in good Montgomery;
And if love sore,
Lasts six days more,
Farewell cream cheese, and flummery.

The following version into French, of two lines on Sir Isaac Newton, is inserted at the request of a gentleman, who signed himself up *Emigre François*.

ORIGINAL.

NATURE, and Nature's laws, were sunk
in Night,
God said let Newton be, and all was light.

FRENCH VERSION.

La Nature et ses Loix étoient lune &
l'autre en nuit,
Dieu dit, que soit Newton, et l'univers
s'éclaira enuit.

* Heliotropium Luci semper vertit.

REVIEW OF NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Stories for Calumniators: interspersed with remarks on the disadvantages, misfortunes, and habits of the Irish. In 2 vols. 8vo. p.p. 265, 323. By J. B. Trotter, esq. Dublin printed by H. Fitzpatrick, 1809. Price 11s. 4½d.

WE expected on opening these volumes to find patriotic sentiments, a love of liberty, the effusions of a feeling and benevolent heart, and we were not disappointed. The stories which are founded on facts, have left an impression on our minds which will not be readily removed. The story of Henry claims peculiar interest with all those whose hearts are animated by a love of their country, or who have been delighted with the delineation of the many excellent traits in the Irish national character. Henry was the victim of rumour and unjust suspicion; and such we fear has been the case with many virtuous and amiable characters, who lost their lives during the memorable period of the insurrection in Ireland. Our feelings were roused, and our sensibility powerfully called forth, by this melancholy and interesting tale; and we can assure our readers that our feelings are not of that class, which may be called *morbid*, or *enfeebled by affected sensibility*, ready to be called forth by a pathetic novel, or a tale of unreal woe; but we felt during the perusal of the story of Henry that it is a narrative founded on facts, which can never be forgotten.

The story of McNeil, is a tale founded chiefly on facts which occurred in the Northern part of Ireland. It is deserving the compassion of the friends of true liberty; and we must give the author praise for the *true patriotism* discovered in this book; he gives a less imaginary view of the Irish, than any writer with whom we have lately met; without flattering our national vanity, he candidly acknowledges that many of the faults of the Irish, proceed from intoxication and a love of low company. This defect in the Irish character, has often

been a cause of much regret to the reflecting part of the people of Ireland. The want of order and cleanliness in the domestic management of the poorer classes is shown in a strong point of view; he very properly attributes this striking defect, to the want of industry and education, the stimulus of which if rightly applied, would produce reformation. We shall extract a few of his remarks on this subject.

“Edward entered many of the houses, and remarked that a *total want of order* was every where observable among the lower class. The earthen floor was in general damp and comfortless. The chairs and tables unwashed. The children neglected as to personal neatness, and dress; the women destitute of employment, had no resource but gossiping, or the fatal expedient of tipping, to render lighter the wings of time. It is not the fault of the lower orders, if they do not practise what they have never been accustomed to; and if the modelling hand of legislature has omitted to give good education, the subjects for it are no more to be blamed than the ill brought up child, which has never known wholesome restraint and instruction. The stimulus of laudable pride and emulation might here have caused cleanliness of person and habitation. Industry also, supplied with channels, might have exercised energy, given independence, and caused a different face of things, when competence had been gained, and there was time and opportunity for thinking of the comforts which may be attained in humble life.”

The story of Miss Saxley shows, in a striking point of view, the want of generosity in attacking the character of an unprotected female, whose character too often falls a victim to slander and unmerited reproach. Would persons give themselves time to reflect on the misery they occasion, by thoughtlessly throwing unmerited imputation on characters, we

are sure humanity would prevent them from such acts of cruelty.

Ferguson paints the misery occasioned in very strong terms.

"When in her fair form,
The smallest flaw is found, the whole decays,
In vain she may implore with piteous eye,
And spread her naked pinions to the blast;
A reputation maimed finds no repair,
Till death, the ghastly monarch, shuts the scene."

We should rejoice to see the example more generally followed, which he has pointed out, of the Catholic and Protestant clergymen benevolently co-operating with feeling hearts in relieving the distressed, and affording comfort to the poor, and as he very justly remarks, "In such conduct he saw a remedy for much misfortune in society in Ireland."

Mutual forbearance, and mutual support are much wanted to allay the irritation, which still exists; and where is the benevolent heart that would not rejoice to see all animosities healed, all religious distinctions made equal, and the virtuous of all religious denominations uniting to promote harmony and comfort? Happily for Ireland a more liberal spirit on the subject of Catholic emancipation is becoming general, and many of its most violent opponents are, at least, become more moderate; but we could wish the noble liberality expressed in the following lines to be more generally adopted.

"O! rouse thou in spite of a merciless few,
And pronounce this immortal decree,
That whate'er be man's tenets, his fortune, his hue,
He is man, and shall therefore be free."

Power is a dangerous weapon to place in the hands of any party; as the formation of the human mind is such, as to make those in power feel their dignity enhanced by tyrannizing over those whom they proudly call their inferiors; and the exercise of power over any men, or any nation, divided by civil or religious dissensions, is a trust of a delicate nature, for which very few are fitted.

We select the following as an instance of the unaffected sensibility of this writer: "There are circumstances connected with the loss of our dearest

friends, which renew the memory of those departed objects, and are hallowed by feeling minds into a sort of periodical intercourse with them. I knew a friend whom the red cluster of the mountain ash, reminds of the loss of a character unrivalled for the brightest talent and softest heart. A small tree of that species grew near the chamber of the invalid. Every morning he noticed with pleasure the autumnal beauty of this little tree; its clusters brightened with the rays of the unclouded sun. He had little sleep or ease; at the dawn he looked out for the mountain ash: he watched the berries reddening, the leaves glittering, and the movement of its branches, as the morning air freshened through them: when the evening fell, he saw with sorrow his favourite object fade from his eyes, but death came before the berries were left naked on the tree. Ever since my friend feels his sorrow renewed at the autumnal appearance of the mountain ash berries. The brightening clusters mark his irreparable loss, and he consecrates that moment of the autumn to grief that can never die, and is then peculiarly vivid!"

As an instance of strict integrity and magnanimity, we select the following anecdote which is founded on a fact, which occurred in a town in the North of Ireland. "That is the cabin," said our guide, "of Margaret Palmer; she is widow of James Palmer. Her story is a doleful one. Her husband was a clever lad, and was concerned in something about the rebellion. He was brought out to die; Margaret was persuaded to advise him to *inform* about every one he knew, to save himself and family. "If I do," he said (and I heard this from them that knew him) "if I do so to save my family, and keep you from being a widow, twenty miserable families, and twenty widows will curse me daily. I cannot live! so farewell!" and he died. His wife has since lived here; the neighbours built the house among the hollies. She is industrious, spins, and teaches the boys to read; but she never smiled since."

We might enlarge this critique very much by some very interesting and instructive quotations, but we

rather refer our readers to the book, convinced that any person who has the smallest spark of patriotism will feel highly gratified by the perusal. We shall however venture to make a few more extracts, in the expectation that our readers will be much pleased with the very excellent advice of the amiable Mrs. O'Brien, given to her young friend, nearly in her last moments; advice which cannot be read without interest. She thus describes his brother as a model for imitation: Henry had early principles of *public virtue*; and by reading had stored his mind with examples of disinterestedness, and high regard for the community at large. His sentiments were therefore *truly patriotic*; and as nothing of avarice or that ambition which loves to stride over others, without feeling or principle, entered into his mind, he was not incited as so many are, to disturb society to satisfy these passions; nor was he impelled by them in the wishes he formed, and the plans of reforming abuses, which he sometimes meditated upon. Though young, very young, his mind was early formed by thinking and reading; and his great sensibility produced observation in no common degree, without leading him in the least from the landmarks of judgment and good sense. *He loved his country, as a common parent; honoured her virtues, and lamented her faults.* He often wept over the page of her melancholy history, and often his humanity recoiled from it. "At times, said he, I cannot bear to read of so much disorder and misery. In this view society looks hideous. But then the construction of government must have been faulty, or the people could not have been so turbulent, or so unhappy. Government is education, and the scholars are shaped by the master." She then pathetically advises; "Be neither rash nor timid, yet ever filled with zeal for the happiness of your countrymen, do them all the good in your power, but do not repine if you cannot do all you wish. Be to your wife a companion and friend; and avoid the common error of men, in undervaluing our sex, of refusing them confidence,

and lowering them to the mere performance of household affairs. Be assured want of confidence hurts, by destroying every motive which elevates the soul. In another matter I wish you to hold the example of Henry before your eyes unceasingly; fondness for study, and a determination to remain alone at any time, rather than resort to low and bad company, kept him always free from the habit of intoxication."

Our author concludes with the following excellent remarks. "If Mrs. O'Brien's farewell advice be read with interest and attention, by any of my young countrymen, I would entreat them to consider how much solid virtues are superior to superficial qualifications; to probe their hearts deeply lest vanity may be found to stand for patriotism, or bigotry for religion; lest mercenary views may be thought to be loyalty; or inflaming the ignorant be imagined public spirit; lest convivial excess be mistaken for manliness; or animal vivacity conceived to be energy. Let me conjure them to look to a self-education, at home, when the school and college are abandoned; there to read for improvement, and the benefit of their country. Let them then uphold it by their virtues, civilize it by their example and efforts, and thus give to it what it most wants, pure and glowing patriots."

We have been more anxious in selecting extracts from this work to exhibit detached specimens of the writer's sentiments to interest our readers, and make them desirous of perusing it for themselves, than merely to give a dry detail of the contents of the volumes.

While we give the intelligent author of these pages the highest credit for his patriotism, his benevolence and feeling for the unfortunate, we must, as a painful part of our duty, point out some defects. In the first part of the second volume he allows his imagination to wander into the boundless regions of romance. The story of Sophy's madness and her recovery, is unworthy the writer of the affecting and simple story of Henry; but by mixing a *little love* into the work, perhaps he thought it might gain the

attention of persons, whose frivolity too often leads them to indulge more in the pleasures of the imagination, than in the instructive page of reality. He may think thus to lead them while reading for amusement to collect useful information, and to feel for the distresses of their countrymen. We also noticed at pages 53 and 125, in the second volume, a departure from strict veracity, in excuses to palliate absence; this the

defence of a friend cannot warrant, and even in a work of fancy is not excusable.—We are conscious that these deviations from veracity, are sanctioned by the *polite world*, but still they are breaches of the strict law of morality, and we are sorry our author condescended to make use of them. Silence, where a manly avowal of the truth cannot be made, would have been far more noble.

Y.

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Patent of Mr. John Barton of Argyle-street, London, for a Lamp on a new construction, in which a constant supply of oil is produced by the hydrostatic action of a heavier fluid.

MR. BARTON'S lamp consists of two principal parts, one of which contains the heavier fluid, and the other the oil. The first (as represented in the figure which accompanies the specification) is in the figure of a pillar resting on a pedestal, supporting an urn on its top. The part which contains the oil, is contained within this, chiefly in the pedestal, and consists of a vessel about a fourth of its height and nearly of the same diameter, from which a small tube rises through the pillar and urn to the top, where it diverges into three, or more branches, each furnished with a burner. The whole moves freely up and down in the pillar and pedestal, and has attached to it two floats, one in the pedestal and the other in the urn, formed either of cork, wood, or vessels impervious to air, which sustain it, so that about a tenth of its length may rise above the surface of the water (or other fluid heavier than oil) with which the pillar, &c. is filled. The bottom of the oil vessel is made to take off like a snuff-box lid, and in its center a small

hole, about a tenth of an inch in diameter is made to admit the water as the oil is consumed; the water-holder is made to take asunder at the top of the pedestal, by a water tight screw joint, and also at the top of the urn, in order to admit the oil vessel.

When the oil reservoir is inclosed in the outer vessel, and the joints are all secured, the latter is filled with water up to the bottom of the urn, (which is to contain about as much as the reservoir) the oil is then poured gently through the tube, till it rises to within about an inch of the top, after which the branch containing the burners, is screwed on, the wick is put in, and the whole is then ready for use.

As the oil is poured in, the water will be driven out from the reservoir through the small tube at its bottom, and will rise in the urn, till it forms an equilibrium with the oil. On the contrary, as the oil is consumed by the flame, the water will run into the reservoir to supply its place, and in proportion as its level becomes lower from this cause in the urn, the burners will sink down along with the reservoir and floats so as still to preserve the same distance between them and the oil in the tube.

The burners for this lamp are of a peculiar construction; each of them is formed with a small concave dish attached to it, at not more than one half of its diameter below its superior extremity, and which projects from it an equalspace. The use of this dish is to catch the small quantity of oil which exudes from the wick, and besides preventing the unpleasant effect which results from the flowing of the oil down the sides of the burner, applies the oil (which would otherwise be wasted) to the purpose of more copiously supplying the combustion of the wick. It will generally be found when the wick has been properly applied, and this part of the burner has been well constructed, that the oil which exudes from the wick, and flows into this concave dish, will rise with a convex surface till its upper part come into contact with the wick over the edge of the burner, by which means the brilliancy of the light is considerably augmented. In order however that no part of the oil which exudes from the wick during its combustion may be wasted, another concave dish is attached to the burner, below the first, but about one third larger; and holes are made in the burner where the upper surface of the lower dish touches it, both to let the oil that is caught by this dish flow back in the wick, and to admit the air to come in contact with it; a certain portion of which will rise along with the oil, and assist in promoting the combustion.

*Remark....*Lamps have often before been constructed in which the oil has been made to rise to a certain level by the pressure of water, or mercury, so as to supply the combustion more equally; and a plan for this purpose may be seen so far back as the works of Hero Alexandrinus, where we find it under the following title in the latin version of his Pneumatica. *Lucerna constructio, ut si oleum diminutum sit, in accensione lucernæ aqua infusa, lucerna oleo repleatur.*

The novelty of Mr. Barton's lamp does not therefore consist in this circumstance, but in having the oil vessel floating in water, which as far as we know is an original invention. But it

does not appear that any great benefit can arise from it; for the common fountain lamps answer sufficiently well, for the usual purposes where they are wanted; and for domestic use, as a substitute for candles (for which from the figure given of Mr. Barton's lamp, it would seem that it was principally intended) It can never come in competition with Argand's lamps, in any respect whatsoever.

Patent of the Rev. Mr. Edward Manley of Uffculm, Devon, for a Plough.
Dated May, 1809.

The frame of this plough consists of a beam, like that of a common plough, with two side pieces attached to its near end, and diverging from it in an angle of about 45° which are connected together by a cross piece behind, that forms a triangle with them: from the cross piece, two handles rise of the usual form.

This frame carries three cultivators, or instruments for working the ground; one of which is fixed to the beam in the front of the triangle, and the other two behind at the extremities of the side pieces. Of these cultivators three different sets are provided for the plough; one of the first kind resembles a coulter, with a sharp point, having two wings projecting horizontally from it at an angle of about 45°. The second set are the same as the first, except that they are of a smaller size. One of the third set differs from the first only in having a single or double broad plate, like a mould-board, fixed behind the coulter. To the above implement a roller, and a harrow brush (formed of branches pressed together in a frame and pointed downwards) are occasionally annexed.

The first set of cultivators, when attached to the frame, and set shallow in the ground, will either scarify, or *spine*; and when set deep they will draw themselves into the ground, working it up and pulverising it to a great depth. The second set are used for the purpose of working the ground finer. The third are employed for turning the ground over in single or double ridges. Mr. Manley names this implement the *Expedition Plough*.

Patent of William Hutton of Sheffield, for a method of making sickles and Reaping Hooks.

Dated July, 1809.

These hooks have flat blades, all of one thickness, strengthened with backs attached to them, either by rivets, or by holding them tightly in a grove formed in each, in the same manner as the backs of the finer saws are constructed.

The following directions are given by the Patentee for forming these Hooks, "Take a piece of steel, hammer or roll it, to the proper thickness, then cut or pare it into the form of a sickle or reaping hook: then tooth the blade in the usual manner, if it is intended for a sickle; next harden the blade in the hardening mixture now used for saws, and give it a temper, or colour, according to the quality of the steel, of which it is made, then set and grind it. The back may be made and affixed to the blade in the following manner. Take a piece of iron or steel, hammer or draw it into the form of a back of a sickle, or hook, fit it to the blade; then drill holes through both it and the blade to correspond with each other, and fasten them together with rivets or screws.

The backs may be also made in the following manner; take a piece of iron or steel, roll, forge, hammer or cast it, to the proper thickness, and pare it to a breadth proper for the purpose you intend it, then double it by means of a vice, stamp, or fly press; then fasten the *tang* unto or into the back, either by welding or brazing; then hammer the back upon a stithy, or block of iron or steel, so that it may be flat and level, then close the edges nearly together, taking care to leave the back part more open than the edge, in order that it may form a spring for the purpose of holding itself fast to the blade, which done, put the blade into a vice, and force on the back through its nearly closed edges, with a hammer, or force the blade into the back by a wooden hammer, striking on the edge of the blade.

In this latter mode any number of rivets or screws thought proper, may be also added, to fasten the back to the blade more effectually.

Account of the Flat Roof of the cotton mill of Messrs. M'Crum, Leppers & Co. Belfast; and of the Composition used in constructing it, and other roofs, vallies, and Gutters in this vicinity.

The roof of the cotton mill lately erected by Messrs. M'Crum, Leppers & Co. near the poor-house of Belfast, is quite flat. It is 196 feet long, and 38 feet broad, and has a part elevated about 5 inches above the rest, running all round it next the parapet, 6 feet broad, like a raised foot way; which forms a shallow pond in the middle, to hold a depth of about 4 inches of water; from which pipes descend to admit it to every story in the mill. The house for the steam engine, and for the steam boilers, which is, a few feet detached from the other buildings, has also a flat roof; it is 40 feet long, and 34 feet broad, and is constructed so as to form a reservoir eleven inches deep to hold water.

The timber work of the roof, is the same as for the floors of the building; and its rafters have the same intervals between them as those of the floors; on these rafters battens two inches broad and one inch thick, were nailed half an inch apart from each other; and over the battens a coat of common mortar, containing equal quantities of slacked lime and of sharp sand, mixed with chopped hay, was laid half an inch thick. Slates cut in rectangles were placed with their edges close together upon the mortar, as flags or tiles are fixed in flooring.

When the mortar was dry, a coat from a quarter to three eighths of an inch thick was laid on over the slates, of a composition formed by about one part of tar, to two or three of chalk, according to the quality of the tar. The chalk was pounded exceedingly fine and boiled with the tar to a proper consistence, so as neither to be liable to crack when applied to use, or to be too soft; either of which extremes would be highly injurious. This coat of composition was spread out hot over the slates by heated iron tools, something like large smoothing irons, with long handles bent so as to be most convenient. On the following day, after putting on the first coat of composition, when the weather permitted, a second coat of the same materials, having a propor-

tion of dry sharp fresh water sand added to them, equal to that of the chalk, was laid over the first in the same manner, and about the same thickness, which completed the roof, and rendered it perfectly impervious to water. The parapets are lined with a coating of the same composition, laid on in the same manner, as high as the coping stones.

The slates are used in this method, because the composition is found to adhere with more tenacity to them, than to most other substances, while on the other side the mortar binds them down firmly to the battens, so as to make the whole strong and secure. The method of boiling the composition to the proper consistence, is the chief art in the process; it is only to be acquired by experiment, and its state is judged of by the workmen by feeling a portion of it with their fingers; but they find the usual difficulties which occur on such occasions, of communicating their sensations, so that we must look to other sources for information on this head; and any one who wishes to use this method of roofing, where workmen who are acquainted with it are not to be procured, would do well to try several small experiments to ascertain this matter to his satisfaction before he proceeds farther: but in this part of Ireland such experiments will not be necessary, as it would be cheaper and better to employ Mr. Daniel Gillmore of Lisburn, who formed the roof described, to superintend the business required, than to risk spoiling the whole.

Mr. Gillmore, besides the above roofs, did the vallies of a dwelling house and the roofs of two large bow windows, in the same manner, for Robert Williamson, esq. of Lambeg, in 1808; the vallies of the house of Mr. Wm. Simms of New-grove, near Belfast; those of Mr. Nelson of Malone; those of Mr. Hunter, of Lisburn, and of several others belonging to various other gentlemen.

On all these occasions the composition has been found to be equally impervious to water as lead is, while it is much cheaper, and easier to be repaired, if it meets with any accident. Mr. Gillmore lays on this composition and roofing, at one shilling per square foot when tar is fifty shillings per bar-

rel; for which he finds tar, chalk, mortar, slates, labour, and the necessary utensils; and he charges more or less proportionally according as the tar is cheaper or dearer than the above price.

The cotton mill above mentioned is intended to be fitted up in a very complete manner; it is to have all the different floors heated to a due temperature by steam pipes; care has been already taken for its due ventilation, and to provide such accommodations for the work-people as will keep the building perfectly sweet and wholesome, and promote cleanliness. And the whole is to be illuminated by gas lights, in the same manner, as the mills of Messrs. Phillips & co. of Manchester, and several others in England are now lighted. The work is likely to be very creditable to its proprietors, as well as to Mr. Horatio Barton of Manchester, under whose management it has been planned and erected; but when the whole is completed, a further description of it will be given, as it promises to be one of the most perfect establishments of the kind in this kingdom.

A few observations on this method of making roofs, shall now conclude this paper. To the best of the recollection of the writer, the composition was the invention of Lord Stanhope, and some houses in England were roofed according to his plan; something has been published on this subject by his lordship, and when it can be procured, an abstract of it shall be given.

Flat roofs have been in use in Asia from the earliest times, and frequent allusions to this circumstance are made in the bible, as well as in the works of most Eastern writers. It has been hitherto generally understood that the quantity of snow, and rain, which fall in most parts of Europe would render flat roofs unadvisable for our climate. But this is probably a mistaken opinion, and has been caused chiefly by a good and cheap method of making them not having been generally known; a proof of which is, that many of the roofs of old churches in England are nearly flat, which have been covered with lead; so that if their flatness was any inconvenience it must have been known before the

Flat roofs are likely to be subject to still less objection in Ireland, than in England; because the quantity of snow, which falls here in general, is so much less, that there can hardly ever be any danger of its accumulating so as to do them any injury by its weight.

In large cities where ground is scarce and dear, flat roofs would be peculiarly commodious, and add much to the comfort and health of the inhabitants; affording them an additional surface, for all the uses to which yards are applied, equal to the area of the space occupied by all the houses; which in London, for example, on a rough estimate could not be less than the prodigious surface of four or five square miles.

Flat roofs would, besides affording all the convenience of yards, be preferable to them for many purposes; from their being more exposed to the sun and wind, cloaths could be dried on them better than below: and the same circumstances would render them more favourable to those little plantations of flowers, which most citizens delight in rearing; though from the want of proper light and ventilation in the confined situations, where they are at present placed, they seldom thrive with any vigour, and require constant renovation of their ranks from the country to prevent utter extinction. Some may think this consideration trifling, but a more mature reflection might convince them, that no innocent amusements should be despised, especially when they contribute to health, and the recreation of the mind, as well as to the gratification of the senses.

In making the composition for flat roofs, coal tar should certainly be tried, there is no apparent reason why it should not do as well as pine tar, and it would cost much less.

In point of economy also, roofs of Tarras composition, and of the artificial puzzolana, which has been described in a former number of this magazine, should also have a fair trial; for if they succeeded, they would form a much cheaper covering for houses than any yet mentioned.

Flat roofs also cause a great saving of timber in buildings of a certain size, such as that of the cotton mill

mentioned, for in them the place of the heavy frame work, which would be necessary to support common roofs, is supplied by beams alone; and though the rafters must be somewhat larger for flat roofs, yet as on the other hand, so much fewer of them will be required, as the breadth of the roof is less than the sum of the two sides of a roof of the common kind necessary for the same building, it is imagined that even for them considerably less timber will be required: and to buildings of all sizes, both small and great, this latter consideration is universally applicable. J.W.B.

A method of preparing Aromatic Vinegar; by Mr. J. Jennings.

Take of common vinegar any quantity, mix with it powdered chalk, or common whiting, sufficient to destroy the acidity. Then let the white matter subside, and pour off the insipid supernatant liquor;— afterwards let the white powder be dried, either in the open air, or by fire. When it is dry, pour upon it sulphuric acid, as long as white acid fumes continue to ascend. Stone vessels are the most proper to be used on this occasion, as the acid will not act upon them. The product is the *Acetic Acid*, known in the shops by the name of Aromatic Vinegar. If any one is desirous of obtaining the acid in a liquid state, the apparatus of *Nooth* presents a convenience for the purpose. It must of course be collected in water.

Remark.... Mr. Jennings proposes the above process as an useful and commodious one for purifying prisons, hospitals, and houses where contagion is presumed or suspected. The white acid fumes diffusing themselves quickly around. From which it should appear that he either has not heard of the superior efficacy of the fumigations of oxygenated muriatic acid, of nitric acid, or even of muriatic, for these purposes, which have been so fully proved, in so many various instances, and accounts of the great and indeed surprizing powers of which have appeared in so many publications, that it seems very unaccountable, that Mr. Jennings should not

have heard of them; or if he did, why he did not think them deserving of any notice.

Liquid acetic acid is useful however for many purposes, and this method for obtaining it, is cheap and simple, with the exception of the use of Nooth's apparatus, recommended in it, for which simpler vessels may be easily substituted.

Observations on loaded and unloaded Barges, and other floating bodies descending with streams, or currents, accounting for their heaviest extremities going foremost; by George Orr, esq. Phil. Mag. v.35 p.31.

Loaded barges, beams of wood, and other bodies floating with the tide, will make a quicker progress than the tide; the same will take place in the current of a river, where there is no tide. The bargemen on the Thames, account for this by saying, "that loaded barges have more hold of the tide, from their floating deeper, than unloaded ones." Mr. Orr does not approve of this reason, but thinks on the contrary, it takes place from the following cause.

"When water is perfectly at rest, its surface presents an horizontal plane; but on any change from this state of rest taking place, the particles of water are, by the force of gravitation, put in motion, and will endeavour to find their level again, or continue to move in an *inclined plane*; and all bodies floating on the surface more or less deep, or suspended in the fluid, being subject to the same laws of gravitation, take their direction with the moving fluid, and thus pass down the same inclined plane, with a motion more or less accelerated, as such bodies are heavier or lighter; that is as they possess more or less power to overcome the resistance that may be opposed to them."

Mr Orr thus accounts for the quicker progress of the floating bodies on the inclined plane so formed. "The reason of this quicker progress, seems to me to be, that any solid floating on a fluid, and descending with it, acts altogether in one mass; and its particles thus acting together, combine to overcome the resistance they meet, and to divide

the fluid, which easily yielding to any pressure, will make way for the body in its descent pressing forward. Besides, the particles of the fluid do not act in conjunction, and being easily separated they roll about and impede each other by their friction, not only against each other, but against the sides of the river, and the bed on which they descend.

To this may be added, that less friction takes place between the fluid and solid, as they attract each other less, than between the innumerable particles of the fluid; consequently, the solid will glide on, or slip through the liquid with a greater degree of velocity, than the fluid, under the circumstances already enumerated, can attain."

Mr. Orr states in his paper several miscellaneous circumstances relating to the same subject, of which the following are selected.

"When the wind blows strong into any bay, or against any embayed coast, there must be an under current; because the wind prevents the return of the accumulated water along the surface."

"All pressure on bodies floating with streams must, whether the pressure be perpendicular, or oblique, increase their progress:—if the pressure be perpendicular, it adds to the weight, and consequently to their power of overcoming resistance on the part of the fluid: if the pressure be oblique, and in the direction of the motion; it will, besides encreasing the weight, give impulse."

"It is observed (by another writer on the same subject) that the surface of the ocean is an inclined plane. I have stated in some of my letters before published, that the surface of the ocean consists of an infinity of inclined planes, or of ascents and descents, owing to the attraction of gravitation and its laws."

"The reason why ships at sea that are deeply loaded make less progress on a voyage than those which are lighter, seems to be; that what they gain, in descending from the top of a wave, or inclined plane, over a lighter vessel, by their greater gravity, they lose in ascending the next wave: since the surface of the ocean consists

of innumerable inclined planes; but in a river or stream the whole progress is on one descent.

“Two pieces of wood of the same kind and weight, but of different shapes, will make different progress in the same current: a cone rounded at the base, for example, will move quicker than a cylinder, and to this it may be principally attributed, that one ship sails better than another. For this reason logs for finding the direction of currents at sea should be of a conical shape, and two of them should always be thrown out together, when if they both take the same direction, the tendency of the current will be more certainly proved.”

“A barge loaded at one end, and empty at the other, if floated in a fair and regular stream, without cross currents, would certainly proceed with the heavy end foremost, for the same reason that a conical piece of wood, or even a cylindrical one, loaded at one end, would go with the heavy end foremost, though placed originally in a contrary direction. The inclined plane of rivers, and streams must be very irregular, from the number of inequalities at bottom: the current will partake of these irregularities, and the motion of bodies which float in them must be affected by them in a certain degree.

“Lastly, does a body, floating down a stream or current, and which has a quicker progress than the stream or current, receive any addition to its motion from the motion of the fluid? I think it does not; that it is only indebted to the fluid for its suspension, but that it is to its gravity, and acting in one mass that it is indebted for its greater progress. On the contrary I think it loses in its velocity, or progressive motion; for though the floating body, be specifically lighter than the water, and of course one would imagine that it would move slower, still owing to the causes already enumerated, its progress is quicker: but there is a draw-back on this progress; because if the solid moves faster than the water, part of its force must be wasted against the fluid, which moves slower, but in the same direction. This case is analogous to that of two balls moving in the

same direction with different velocities: that with the greater velocity, on overtaking the other, communicates part of its force, and of course loses so much in its velocity.

Remarks...—The progress of floating bodies being quicker than the stream, depends on two plain causes. 1st. The surface of the stream or river is inclined in a greater angle than the bed on which it moves itself; and the progress of the floating body, which moves on a plane of the greater declivity must be quicker than that of the stream, which moves on a plane of less declivity: 2d. The surface of the river, on which the body moves, is perfectly smooth, and makes little resistance comparatively to its progress; whereas the bottom of the river, on which the current moves, is very rough, and causes much resistance to its motion.

The nature of currents at sea, does not appear to be always the same as those of rivers; in the latter there is at all times a descent; but currents at sea, we may easily conceive to move from the mere impulse of the wind, acting on the surface in such a manner as to cause little or no depression in any one part; in the same way as water in a vessel may be moved round, by the impulse of any body made to move in it in one direction; probably, however, in most cases there is a depression of some one part, or an inclined plane formed, but it does not appear that this must be always the case.

What Mr. Orr observes of the proper shape of floats for ascertaining currents; is only repeating in other words the well known truth, that certain shapes enable vessels to pass more readily through the water, or to sail quicker, than others; for as the progress of these floats is owing to their moving quicker than the current, and of course moving through it, whatever shape will make them perform this with less resistance, must make them move faster, and indicate the current better. The theory of the shapes of vessels best for quick progress, which at present is much obscured by the cabalistical enigmas of the algebraists, is capable of being reduced to great

simplicity and clearness by a proper attention to the laws of hydrostatics, particularly in the mode in which they act in closing up the track of the vessel, and to the manner in which motion is lost by its necessary communication from the vessel to the water: which the writer hopes to have an opportunity to demonstrate on some future occasion; having a memoir on the subject nearly ready for publication, when it can be done to advantage.

The quicker progress of the lower part of a stream or river, than the surface (though it does not operate so much as the causes stated, in occasioning loaded vessels, of a greater draft of water, to move quicker down the current than empty ones) yet

it certainly must have some effect on them; and the observations of the bargemen, which relate to this circumstance, are not so void of foundation as Mr. Orr supposes. For in a river (which is resisted in its progress, by the roughness of the banks and of the bottom, and by the pressure of the air at its surface) there must be some part towards its center, most remote from these resistances, which moves quicker than the rest; and the nearer the bottom of the barge approaches to that central part, by being more deeply laden, it is clear that the greater must be the impulse which it will receive, from the superior velocity with which this part of the stream advances.

MONTHLY RETROSPECT OF POLITICS.

WE have frequently adverted to the glaring mismanagement of that hostile spirit which lately appeared in Spain against the French, either for the purpose of injuring the enemy, or ameliorating the condition of a most degraded and ill-governed people. The opportunity so unexpectedly occurring, appeared to men of all parties the best that could happen for effecting the former purpose, while many liberal and enlightened persons hailed it with rapture, as giving promise of emancipation from that ignominious servitude in which the natives of this fine country had been held for ages. An able and virtuous statesman with this powerful engine, would have accomplished both, and erected a monument for himself in the hearts of millions; but it soon became evident that the system actually followed by our ministry would lead to results equally disgraceful and disastrous to the assistants and the assisted. The last act of this tragedy is now drawing to a conclusion; and after having co-operated with a foolish or knavish junta in executing imbecile plans totally inadequate to the ostensible purpose, we are now on the eve of deserting the Peninsula, and leaving the universal Spanish and

Portuguese nations to swell the train, and exalt the triumph of Napoleon and Joseph.

The last accounts state the French to be advancing uninterruptedly through all parts of the country, and that the junta having fled from Seville—which the French entered on the 30th January—and part of them arrived at Cadiz, had appointed a council of regency consisting of five members, and immediately dissolved themselves. Cadiz, the only place in Spain likely to stop the progress of the French arms, was at that time in a most critical situation, having only a thousand regular troops, and the fortifications quite unfinished; and had not the duke of Albuquerque arrived unexpectedly with 8000 men, it must have fallen almost without opposition.

When the drowning weight of Spain and Portugal has been forced off our shoulders, we trust, if the war must still continue, that it will be carried on by other means and another spirit than it has been hitherto. We need no longer expect effectual aid in its prosecution from any existing government: we have tried them all and found them wanting. The deficiency could not arise from

want of sufficient will and inclination; they fought to perpetuate a system by which they thrive, and may therefore be supposed to have put forth all their energies in its defence; but we have seen that, rather than interest the people in their quarrel, rather than risk those emoluments drawn from the people's industry by raising them from the debasement of slaves, they would compromise their own and their country's honour, and bow their heads beneath a foreign yoke. As the British constitution need not shrink from a comparison with the freest in the world, what is the cause that in our intercourse with other nations the introduction of the topic of liberty, or popular freedom into the discussions relating to mutual defence, seems to be dreaded as something highly pestilential and dangerous? Is it because we have experienced the bad effects of this freedom at home, or that our *delicacy* prevents us from interfering in the domestic arrangements of our neighbours? We leave these questions with our readers: but we will venture to say, that, until we get the better of an apparently selfish and illiberal spirit intent only on monopolizing the advantages we enjoy, and embrace the manly policy of inviting the nations, our allies, or within the possibility of becoming such, to participate in the blessings of a free and well administered constitution, we shall never be able to counteract the overwhelming influence of France, nor establish our own safety on an impregnable and enduring foundation.

A parliamentary inquiry is at present going on at the bar of the house of Commons respecting the calamitous and unsuccessful expedition to the Scheldt. It is premature on the present stage to speculate on the probable result, but as one of the most prominent effects attending this inquiry, we shall notice the enforcing of the standing order to shut the gallery of the house of commons during the examination of the witnesses. By this measure the reporters who attend on the part of the proprietors of the London newspapers are precluded from detailing the evidence to the

public, who can now only receive it as printed by order of the house of Commons, without knowing by whom the inquiry is conducted, or what part each member takes in this important transaction. This measure of excluding strangers coupled with the speeches of some of the members, shows a systematic plan to curtail the liberty of the Press, and to sap its independence. Such part of the press as cannot be purchased, is to be put down: as far as it is not venal, it is to be controuled. It is of great importance to observe that in this systematic attack on the Press, two men, Yorke and Windham have coalesced. They may be considered as the representatives of the parties to which they respectively belong. The one shows the secret views of the ministry, and the other discovers how little will be effected towards promoting the public good, by a change of men without a radical change of measures. Windham and his colleagues, if in power, would be as likely to manacle the press as their political opponents. When we hear Lord Grenville speak of "the great statesman now no more," we perceive in intelligible language an inclination to revive the leading politics of Pitt, and are alarmed by the avowal of the intention. An attentive observer of the history of Pitt's first administration, from seeing the name of Grenville so often closely linked with the obnoxious measures of Pitt, will fear that the taint then received, will long continue to operate on the conduct of his survivor, and for so long a time his firm coadjutor. Lord Grenville's letter to the Earl of Fingal occasions further suspicion. It looks like a politic measure to facilitate his return to office. "*Nulla fronti fides*," is a necessary political axiom. Little dependence can indeed be placed on professions. Besides we find the party of Lord Grenville are generally for war. They only differ from their opponents in the mode of carrying it on. We fear that many of their distinctions would be without a difference, and their measures would prove equally unsuccessful as those of their opponents. During their administration Constantinople was wantonly at-

tacked, a measure scarcely less unjust than the attack of their successors on Copenhagen.

We are pleased to see our countryman, Sheridan, come forward on this occasion as the advocate for the liberty of the press. He was reproached for staying away, when questions between the *political strugglers* for places were at issue. The people have a better right to complain of his conduct on the investigation of last year, and that on questions of far more importance to them than mere trials of the strength of parties, as when parliamentary reform of which he was *formerly* an advocate, was agitated, he was ingloriously silent. But without scrutinizing his motives too closely, let us praise where we can, and applaud him for his exertions in favour of liberty on the present occasion. In one part of his speech he rose with his subject, and in animated terms proclaimed the advantages of the PRESS to the cause of liberty, in a manner highly creditable to him, and which the future historian of these times will record with approbation, when his frailties and many of the temporary politics of the day will be forgotten.

"Give me," said Mr. Sheridan, in a tone of peculiar animation, "give me but the liberty of the press, and I will give to the minister a venal house of peers—I will give him a corrupt and servile house of commons—I will give him the full swing of the patronage of office—I will give him the whole host of ministerial influence—I will give him all the power that place can confer upon him, to purchase up submission and overawe resistance, and yet, armed with the liberty of the press, I will go forth to meet him undismayed; I will attack the mighty fabrick he has reared with that mightier engine; I will shake down from its height, corruption, and bury it beneath the ruins of the abuses it was meant to shelter."

Montagu Burgoyne whose address we gave in the last retrospect, has lost his election for Essex. In a subsequent address, during the progress of the election, he acknowledges that he held a sinecure place of £1300 a year, of which he had been in pos-

session since his infancy, but in case of his election he promised to move for the abolition of sinecure places, and in case he did not succeed in the general plan, to give up the sinecure, which he himself held. But his opponent carried his election, because there was not sufficient independence in the electors to countenance the novelty of returning a member free of expense, a plan, which would at once tend to prevent a candidate from losing his independence and ruining his private fortune by the expenses of a contested election, and secure his gratitude and attachment to his constituents. All ranks require to be renewed to a spirit of independence, electors and representatives equally standing in need of a renovated and higher toned system. "All things are venal," is a reproach equally applicable to the present day, as descriptive of Rome in ancient time.

Luxury and an attempt to live above honest, virtuous means are destructive of independence; if a man live above his income, be it large or small, he is no longer independent. His desires lead him to something not yet in his possession, and to obtain it, and to enlarge the means of gratifying his wishes for show, increased expenses, or some other favourite object, he barter his independence. If in the middle rank of life, he has sons or connections to provide for, in the church, or the army, or the revenue, or in some of the many offices, with which government gratify their dependents. If the votary of luxury is of higher rank, and appears among the hereditary or elected legislators, higher places are the objects of his pursuit. He attends the levees of the ministers of the day, or of him who wishes or expects to be minister in his turn, he is occasionally a guest at his table, and votes obsequiously at his beck. So did not the virtuous Andrew Marvell, in the dissipated days of Charles II. When Lord Danby was sent by the King to tempt his honour, he virtuously refused, and still remained the *incorruptible patriot*.

The following interesting account of this uncommon interview, is thus

lately given in a contemporary print, from which we select.

"His Lordship with some difficulty found his elevated retreat, which was in the second floor, in a court in the Strand. Lord Danby, from the darkness of the stair case, and the narrowness thereof, abruptly burst open the door, and suddenly entered the room, wherein he found Mr. Marvell writing. Astonished at the sight of so noble and so unexpected a visitor, he asked his Lordship with a smile, if he had not mistook his way? "No, replied my Lord, with a bow, not since I have found Mr. Marvell, continuing, that he came with a message from the King, who wished to do him some signal service, to testify his high opinion of his merits.—He replied with his usual pleasantry, that Kings had it not in their power to serve him; he had no void left aching in his breast: but becoming more serious, he assured his Lordship that he was highly sensible of this mark of his majesty's affection, but he knew too well the nature of courts, to accept of favours which were expected to bind a man in the chains of their interest, which his spirit of freedom and independence would not suffer him to embrace.—To take a place at the hands of his Majesty, would be proving him guilty of the first sin; ingratitude, if he voted against him; and if he went in the smooth stream of his interest, he might be doing injustice to his country, and his conscience; he therefore begged that his Majesty would allow him to enjoy a state of liberty, and to esteem him more his faithful and dutiful subject, and more in the true interest of his welfare, by the refusal of his munificence, than if he had embraced his royal bounty.—These royal offers proving vain, Lord Danby began to assure him, that the King had ordered him a thousand guineas, which he hoped he would be pleased to receive, till he could bring his mind to accept something better, and more durable. At this Mr. Marvell renewed his usual smile, and said; "Surely, my good Lord, you do not mean to treat me ludicrously, by these munificent offers which seem to interpret a poverty on my part.

Pray, my Lord Treasurer, do these apartments wear in the least, the air of need? And as for my living, that is plentiful and good, which you shall have from the mouth of the servant:

"Pray, what had I to dinner, yesterday?"

"A shoulder of mutton, sir."

"And what do you allow me to-day?"

"The remainder hashed"

"And to-morrow, my Lord Danby I shall have the sweet blade-bone broiled, and when your Lordship makes honourable mention of my cook and diet, I am sure his Majesty will be too tender in future, to attempt to bribe a man with golden apples, who lives so well on the vlands of his native country!"

The Lord Treasurer unable to withstand this, withdrew with smiles, and Mr. Marvell, sent to his bookseller for the loan of one guinea.—No Roman virtue ever surpassed this temperance, nor can gold bribe any man that is not bribed with luxury."

Prodigal as was the state of morals in the days of this merry, unprincipled King, and his flagitious courtiers, we have a noble instance of political virtue in this anecdote. An instance seldom imitated, and alas! too rare among the statesmen in the reign of George III. The virtuous poverty of Andrew Marvell, confers true honour, and his mutton bone is a badge of more honourable distinction than Kings have in their power to bestow. How diminutive are stars, and garters, ribbons and titles, in comparison of the reward which virtue has in store, for the honest and independent man.

"For peace, sweet virtue, peace is all thy own."

The inhabitants of Westminster have held a meeting and published strong resolutions in favour of parliamentary reform. They likewise voted addresses to the King, and the house of commons. We insert the resolutions, and petitions among the documents, as well to direct the attention of our readers to them at present, as that they may serve as an honourable record to posterity of the proceedings of the present day. Whether any immediate good

effects are produced, or not, we trust such attempts will prove as a seed, which in future time will produce good fruit.

"For by the eye of God hath virtue sworn,
That one good deed was never wrought
in vain."

IRELAND.

Our country as well as the empire at large is agitated at the unexpected turn attempted to be given to the Catholic question by transferring the power of a Veto on the nomination of Catholic Bishops from the Pope to the King. We are heartily desirous that the Catholics would, according to the ancient maxims of their church, assert the independence of nominating their own bishops, for according to their canons, and former practice, the Pope has no right to interfere in the nomination, the right, prior to the reformation in these countries being vested in the chapters to elect without any countrol. Such being the former practice, why should it not again be resorted to? Thus the objection of foreign interference might be obviated, without increasing the overgrown power of the crown, which in the present state of things, we think is of far more danger to the country and to the constitution, than the fears of a superannuated spiritual power, though vested in a foreigner. Unequivocal and decided friends as we are to emancipation, we would prefer to see it delayed for a time, certain that it must eventually be conceded at no very distant period, rather than it should now take place coupled with an increase to the power of the crown. The effects of the Regium Donum granted to the ministers of another church shows the influence of the interference of government. In case of the concession of the Veto, a Catholic clergyman may incline to manifest an obsequious disposition, lest a contrary conduct should afterwards operate to his disadvantage in the event of his election to the episcopacy. The circumstances which have occurred since the famous resolution of the house of commons in 1782, all conspire to render the declaration still more applicable to the present time, "the power of the crown has increased, is increasing, and ought to be diminished."

A masquerade was lately given by

the Lord Mayor of Dublin. We should not notice such an affair in our pages, if it were not to point out the pernicious system in Ireland of calling in the military on every occasion. Armed dragoon paraded the streets on horseback, and committed many outrages on the people, whose curiosity, certainly not of a highly criminal nature, led them to stop the carriages for the purpose of inspecting the dresses of the masks. This circumstance among many others, proves that we enjoy less practical liberty than our English fellow subjects. No attempt was made to quell the row at Covent garden theatre, by an armed force. They proceeded no farther than the display of constables and police magistrates, and preserved the forms of law. But in Dublin a military force was called in to repress a little harmless curiosity.

We are pleased to see William Richardson, esq. M.P. for the county of Annagh, contradicting that he had voted against inquiry into the expedition to the Scheldt. Such instances of subordination of a Member of Parliament to his constituents is very proper, and agreeable to the best principles of the representative system.

Our Readers are requested to correct an error in our last Retrospect, at page 63, 2d col. 37th line, and insert Bubb Doddington, Lord Melcomb, as the name of the supple courtier, instead of Donnington.

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

ENGLISH CATHOLIC MEETING.

In calling the attention of the people of England to the following most temperate and reasonable resolutions of the English Catholic body, we are sure that we shall gratify all the sound, liberal, and enlightened part of our readers. They will see in these resolutions the spirit of pure and loyal attachment to his majesty's throne and government, mixed with the most mild assertion of their claim to an equal participation in the blessings of the British constitution.

Nothing can be more simple than the nature of their application, nor any thing more obviously sincere, than the prayer of the petition they mean to present, for feeling the weight of religious scruples

in their own bosoms, they declare (their readiness to agree to any arrangement founded on equal principles of respect for those of others, that shall give satisfaction and security to both.

London, Feb. 1, 1810.

At a numerous and most respectable meeting of English Roman Catholic noblemen, gentlemen, and clergy, held this day, at the St. Alban's tavern, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted :

The Right Hon. lord Stourton, in the chair.

Resolved, 1. That the Roman Catholics of England are subject to several penal and disabling statutes, which have the most humiliating and depressing operation upon them, and by which they are reduced to a state of political degradation, highly injurious to their country and to themselves.

2. That arrived, as the united kingdom is, at the crisis of its fate, unanimity among all classes of his majesty's subjects, is most essential for the preservation of the empire, and that nothing can produce that unanimity, but an equal participation in the rights, privileges, and immunities, of the British constitution.

3. That the petition signed by the Roman Catholics of England, for the repeal of these statutes, be presented to parliament.

4. That Earl Grey be requested to present the same to the house of lords, and that the Right Hon. William Windham be requested to present the same to the house of commons.

5. That the English Roman Catholics, in soliciting the attention of parliament to their petition, are actuated, not more by a sense of the hardships and disabilities under which they labour, than by a desire to secure, on the most solid foundation, the peace and harmony of the British empire; and to obtain for themselves opportunities of manifesting, by the most active exertions, their zeal and interest in the common cause in which their country is engaged, for the maintenance of its freedom and independence; and, that they are firmly persuaded, that adequate provision for the maintenance of the civil and religious establishments of this kingdom, may be made, consistently with the strictest adherence on their part, to the tenets and discipline of the Roman Catholic religion. And, that any arrangement founded on this basis of mutual satisfaction and security, and extending to them the full enjoyment of the civil constitution of their country, will meet with their grateful concurrence.

6. That the thanks of the English Roman Catholics be given to our secretary, Edward Jermyingham, esq. for his unabated zeal, persevering assiduity, and distinguished prudence in the management of our cause.

7. That the thanks of this meeting be given to the Right Honourable lord Stourton, for his conduct in the chair.

STOURTON, CHAIRMAN.

PARLIAMENTARY REFORM.

At a meeting of the inhabitant-householders, electors of the city and liberty of Westminster, held in New Palace-yard, the 9th day of February, 1810, Arthur Morris, esq. High Bailiff, in the Chair.—It was resolved,

That in a petition presented to the house of commons, on the 6th day of May, 1793, and entered on its journals, it was averred, and offered to be proved at the bar, that 154 individuals (peers and others) did, by their own authority, appoint, or procure the return of 307 members of that house (independent of those from Scotland) who were thus enabled to decide all questions in the name of the whole people of Great Britain.

That in a report presented to the said house during the last session, it appears that a large portion of the members thereof, are placemen and pensioners, dependent on the crown.

That in a petition presented to the said house on the 9th day of December, 1790, and entered on its journals, it was averred that "seats therein were as notoriously rented and bought as standings for cattle in a fair;" which assertion was then rescinded as "scandalous and libelous;" but when, on the 11th day of May last, two of his Majesty's ministers were accused of being concerned in the sale of a seat, they were screened from punishment, on a plea of the extreme notoriety of the which many of its members unblushingly justified.

That to this defective state of the representation, is to be attributed long, unfortunate, and destructive wars; the immense debt and taxes with which the country is burthened; and those pernicious councils which have deprived our fellow subjects, the citizens of London, of their ancient and constitutional right of petition to the King.

That by these corruptions, the people are deprived of their lawful share in the government, by representation in the commons house of parliament, which share has been usurped by an unlawful oligarchy of borough-mongers.

That a complete reform in the representation would destroy the corrupt influence of the borough faction, secure to the crown its just prerogatives, and restore to the people those rights of which they are unlawfully deprived.

That when the principles of our constitution shall be reduced to practice, the expenses, disorders, and tumults attending elections, will be avoided; the rights and liberties of the people secured; taxes lessened; the unequal and grievous imposition of the property tax removed; and future burthens prevented. Corruption will then be no longer necessary, much less avowed to be necessary, for the administration of public affairs.

That a petition to his Majesty be now read (which being done) it was resolved, that this be the petition; that the High Bailiff do sign this petition; that our Representatives, the Hon. Lord Cochrane, and Sir Francis Burdett, bart. accompanied by the High Bailiff, be requested to deliver the same to his Majesty.

That a petition to the house of commons be now read (which being done) it was resolved, that this be the petition;—that the High Bailiff, and 25 inhabitant householders, do sign this petition; that it be delivered to our representatives, the Hon. Lord Cochrane, and Sir F. Burdett, bart. to be presented to the house. And they are hereby instructed to support the same.

That the thanks of this meeting be given to our worthy representatives, the Hon. Lord Cochrane, and Sir F. Burdett, bart. for their general conduct in parliament.

That the thanks of this meeting be given to Sir F. Burdett, bart. for calling upon the house of commons, during the last session, to take into their consideration the state of the representation, and for his able and constitutional speech on that occasion.

That the thanks of this meeting be given to Arthur Morris, esq. High Bailiff, for the promptness with which he called this meeting, and for his impartial conduct in the chair.

(Signed)

ARTHUR MORRIS,
High Bailiff.

The Petition to the King.

"We, your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the inhabitant householders, electors of the city and liberty of Westminster, respectfully approach your Majesty's throne, to declare our anxious solicitude for the honour of your crown and the safety of your dominions; and notwithstanding the unconstitutional and odious barriers which by evil-minded coun-

sellors, have recently been placed between your Majesty, and our fellow-subjects, the citizens of London, we bearing in mind, that the same acts of parliament which, and which alone, made the Crown of England your Majesty's birth-right, declared, as having always existed, the right of petition to be our birth-right. We humbly state to your Majesty, that it is with the deepest affliction we have observed the rapid tendency of this our beloved country, to that state of things which prepare nations for foreign subjugation, the cause of which, we humbly submit, is to be found in one of the three estates, of which the government of these realms is composed, having lost its independence. We will neither detail to your Majesty, the proofs offered to be produced at the bar of the house of commons, on the 6th day of May, 1793; nor those of the generally received opinion of your Majesty's faithful and loyal subjects, that a majority of the members are not returned to that house, by the people, but are placed there by a corrupt oligarchy of borough-mongers; but with sorrow of heart we find ourselves compelled to declare to your Majesty our firm conviction that corruption has been established and avowed in that house, and our belief that to this cause ought to be attributed the unfortunate circumstances which have afflicted your people, and brought your Majesty's dominions into such imminent peril, that to preserve them from subjugation by a foe which England for ages despised, will as your Majesty has been graciously pleased to tell us, "require the utmost efforts of vigilance, fortitude, and perseverance." We humbly represent to your Majesty, that the evils we so feelingly deplore, have caused the destruction of almost all the kingdoms and states on the continent of Europe; the corruptions of their governments, by alienating the affections of the people, having rendered them an easy conquest to the armies of France. With unfeigned regret we state these lamentable circumstances to your Majesty; but we are not without hope, we have a resource in the constitution of our country, and need only recur to its principles to regain the great and glorious nation we were in former times; and we are fully convinced, that all our dangers may be averted, your Majesty's throne secured, the rights and liberties of your people restored, and this nation once more become the admiration of the world—simply, but only by an efficient reform in the common house of parliament. We, therefore humbly pray, that your Majesty will be pleased to adopt such measures, as in your Ma-

Majesty's wisdom shall seem meet, for effecting a constitutional reform in the commons house of parliament, and for securing to your people the reality and uses of representation."

The Petition to the House of Commons.

"That in a petition presented to your honourable house, by Charles Grey, esq. (now Earl Grey) on Monday the 6th day of May, 1793, and which petition was entered on the journals of your honourable house, it was averred, and offered to be proved,

"That the house of commons did not fully and fairly represent the people of England. That the elective franchise was so partially and unequally distributed, that a majority of your honourable house was elected by less than a two hundredth part of the male population. That the right of voting was regulated by no uniform or rational principle. That Rutland, the smallest, and Yorkshire, the largest county returned the same number of representatives. That Cornwall, which by the census taken by order of parliament, appears to contain a population of 188,269, "returns as many members to your honourable house as the counties of York, Rutland, and Middlesex," which by the same census, contain 1,693,377. "And that Cornwall, and Wilts," containing 373, 376 persons, "send more borough members to parliament than Yorkshire, Lancashire, Warwickshire, Middlesex, Worcesterhaire and Somersetshire, which united, contain 2,971,250. "That 70 of your honourable members, are returned by 35 places, where the elections are notoriously mere matters of form. That, in addition to the 70 so chosen, 90 more of your honourable members are elected by 46 places, in none of which the number of electors exceed 50. That in addition to the 160 so elected, 37 more of your honourable members, are elected by 19 places, in none of which the number of electors exceed 100. That in addition to the 197 honourable members so chosen, 52 more are returned by 26 places, in none of which the number of voters exceed 200. That in addition to the 249 so elected, 20 more are returned for counties in Scotland by less than 100 electors each, and 10 for counties in Scotland by less than 250 each. That in addition to the 279 so elected, 13 districts of burghs in Scotland, not containing 100 voters each, and 2 districts of burghs, not containing 125 each, return 15 more of your honourable members. That in this manner 294 of your honourable members are chosen, which being a decided majority of the entire house of commons, are

enabled to decide all questions in the name of the whole people of Great Britain.—

That 84 individuals do, by their own immediate authority, send 157 of your honourable members to parliament. That in addition to these 157 honourable members, 150 more, making in the whole 307, are returned to your honourable house, not by the collective voice of those whom they appear to represent, but by the recommendation of 70 powerful individuals, added to the 84 before-mentioned, and making the total number of patrons altogether only 154, who return a decided majority of your honourable house. That no less than 150 of your honourable members owe their elections entirely to the interference of peers; and that 40 peers, in defiance of the resolutions of your honourable house, have possessed themselves of so many burgage tenures, and obtained such an absolute and uncontrolled command in very many small boroughs in the kingdom, as to be enabled, by their own positive authority, to return 81 of your honourable members. That seats in your honourable house are sought for at a most extravagant and increasing rate of expense. That the means taken by candidates to obtain, and by electors to bestow the honour of a seat in your honourable house, evidently appear to have been increasing in a progressive degree of fraud and corruption."

Your petitioners are of opinion, that if the representation of the people in your honourable house had not been very defective and unequal, they should not now have to complain of the sad effects produced by several unfortunate and destructive wars, or of the immense debt and taxes with which the country is burthened. They lament, that your honourable house have not thought fit to take the petition, containing the above allegations into your serious consideration; the more so, as, since the time it was entered on the journals of your honourable house, the above causes cannot but have increased the number of corrupt persons who barter for seats. And it is with grief we state, that when a direct and distinct charge was made in your honourable house, on the 11th day of May last, against Lord Castle-reagh, and Mr. Perceval, members thereof, and at the same time two of his Majesty's ministers, of having sold a seat therein, that your honourable house refused to institute any inquiry; we are therefore compelled to conclude, that the only alternative which is left our country is a radical reform in the representation, or a final extinction of its liberties.

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We cannot conceal from your honourable house our apprehensions, that the prayer of this our petition will not be attended to until it be too late; but your petitioners will, in any event, have the satisfaction arising from a conscientious discharge of the duty they owe their country. Your petitioners most earnestly request, that your honourable house will, at an early day, cause inquiry to be made into the present defective state of the representation, and adopt such other means as shall prevent the choice of representatives from being "committed to select bodies of men, of such limited numbers as render them an easy prey to the artful, or a ready purchase to the wealthy;" and to shorten the duration of parliaments; and by removing the causes of that confusion, litigation, and expense, with which they are at this day conducted, to render frequent and new elections, what our ancestors at the revolution asserted them to be, the means of a happy union and good agreement between the king and the people.

COMMON HALL.

Yesterday there was a very numerous meeting at Guildhall, to receive the report of the Sheriffs, with regard to their proceedings to procure an audience of the King, for the purpose of laying before his Majesty the resolutions of the last Common Hall.

According to the statement of the Sheriffs, it appeared that they had some interviews with the Secretary of State, in which they applied for an audience of his Majesty, in compliance with the directions, of the Livery, but they found their applications unavailing. They left a letter with the Secretary of State expressive of the objects of their applications, and to this, the answer was, that it had been laid before his Majesty, who declined to grant the audience required, because he had for the last four years in consequence of the state of his sight, declined to receive any addresses and petitions at the levee, and he did not feel it right to make any distinction.

After Aldermen Wood and Atkins had made this communication, which was received with strong expressions of discontent,

Mr. Favell stood forward, and in moving certain resolutions as expressive of the opinion of the meeting upon this report, called to their recollection the marked censure of the great Lord Chatham, upon the minister of his day, for returning an unfavourable answer to an address from the city of London. But how much more censurable was the con-

duct of that Minister, who absolutely refused even to receive the address of that city. (*Shouts of hear! hear!*)

Mr. Jones seconded the resolutions.

After the first resolution had been carried, and the second was put—

Mr. Sheriff Atkins presented himself to the Hall, and in a very elaborate speech endeavoured to shew that the Livery never possessed the right of presenting any address or petition to his Majesty upon the throne. The worthy Sheriff had gone on for some time in this strain, with occasional interruptions, but at length there was a general burst of indignation, which rendered it expedient for him to retire.

Mr. Waithman then appeared, and was received with acclamations of applause. He pointed out the mistake under which the honourable Alderman had been arguing throughout. For that Honourable Gentleman had confounded the right of the corporation to present any address or petition to his Majesty upon the throne, with that claimed by the Livery on this occasion, to present their address or remonstrance at the Levee. But the refusal to allow the Sheriffs of London a personal audience of his Majesty on this occasion, was really calculated to excite both astonishment and indignation; for such a refusal had never been attempted before, up to this particular instance. It would be recollected that when his Majesty first declined, in 1795, to receive the petitions of the Livery on the throne, it was prescribed to present such petitions at the Levee, and to that prescription it was now proposed to conform. But Ministers would not allow of even that conformity. They required that the whole thing should be vested in their discretion—either to throw the address or resolutions in the fire, or to communicate them to his Majesty. But the Livery shewed a disposition even to concede, in some degree, to Ministers. At the last Common Hall the right was waved to present a petition to his Majesty at the Levee, and it was proposed merely to require a personal audience. For the first time, this was denied—for the first time since the revolution this denial took place. Nay, the sentiment that prevailed even previous to the revolution, when attempts were made to seize our Charter, shewed how tepid our ancestors were of every thing connected with the right of petitioning. In order to illustrate that sentiment, the Worthy Member read the following extract from the speech

of Sir George Treby, Recorder of London, upon an interesting argument with regard to the question of petitioning.

"That the Constitution and Law of the Land had given to the subject the right of petitioning and of access to the Supreme Governor, to represent to him their grievances, and to pray a redress of them; and, that the same Law gave them also a right to state in their petitions those facts and reasons which caused their grievances, provided those facts are true.

The facts recited in the petitions were unquestionably true, and even confessed by the king's council—the city admitted the king's power to prorogue parliament, and did in no sort question it. They only insisted, that it was as true, that all their grievances and dangers did proceed from that lawful, but unseasonable, act of the king's, and as there was one part of the constitution that gave the king power to prorogue the parliament, so there was another part of the constitution that gave the subject an original right to petition for redress of grievances; and that, therefore, to punish a man for showing in his petition those grievances which he desires to be redressed, and the causes of them, was the same thing as to deny him the right of petitioning, and that such a denial would infer oppression and the most abject slavery; for, when the subjects are misused and grieved, and are denied the liberty to complain and pray the king to redress those evils, where are they constitutionally to look for relief?"

The honourable gentleman animadverted at some length, and with considerable spirit, upon the endeavours of the present administration to injure the right so justly estimated by the high authority he had quoted. But these endeavours formed a part of the systematic attack which was making on the whole constitution of the country. According to that constitution—according to the act of settlement—it was provided that no placemen or pensioners should sit in the house of commons, and yet that house was now nearly filled by placemen and pensioners, or those who were so by proxy. By the same act, no foreigner was to hold any place of profit or power, either civil or military, in this country; but that provision was totally discarded, and we had now no less than 30,000 foreign troops quartered upon us. And in addition to these outrages, it seemed the resolution to deny us the right of petitioning.

Adverting to the allusions which he had made in that hall with regard to lord Castlereagh, the honourable member stated, that he had, since his last explanation, found, that before he had been applied to by the noble lord's friends to make that explanation, legal opinions had been consulted for ten or twelve days, whether an action could not be maintained against him, for what he had said in that hall—(*a general shout of indignation*)—This of course he did not know when he was addressed by lord Castlereagh's friend. But the consultation with lawyers to punish being found unavailing, it was thought expedient to conciliate. When the noble lord could not gratify his disposition, by seeking the former, he bent to his policy in attending to the latter. As it was not deemed expedient to prosecute him, (Mr. W.) for a libel, an appeal was made to his candour and justice on the part of the noble lord's friend. To this appeal he attended and gave all the explanation which candour and justice could require. With that explanation the parties who appealed expressed themselves perfectly satisfied; and yet he had been since most basely misrepresented. It had been said that he had retracted, but this he denied, for he had nothing to retract. What he had stated was, that lord Castlereagh's family received £36,000 a year from the public purse; and he objected to the opposite statements made to him by the noble lord's friend; because he observed that £9,000 a year was omitted, which had only been relinquished by the noble lord, and his connections, about a month or two before; and he also objected to the deduction of the sums paid to clerks or deputies, the whole coming out of the public purse. But what struck him most particularly was, that the noble lord's friend professed not to know that certain persons, enjoying considerable sinecures, were related to the noble lord, until he (Mr. W.) told him so. (*a general laugh*) When he mentioned that lord Camden received £30,000 a year, which made the aggregate sum derived from the public by lord Castlereagh's relations £66,000 instead of £36,000, as he had before mentioned, the noble lord's friend expressed surprise. "Nay more," observed Mr. Waithman, "the noble lord's friend, in alluding to the amount of lord Camden's sinecure, stated that he could not reconcile it to his conscience, nor did he conceive how any honest man could take so much money out of

the pockets of the public, without doing any thing for it, adding, that he was certain, Lord Castlereagh did not differ from him upon the subject of that sinecure." In conclusion, the Hon. gentleman said, that he thought it his duty minutely to state these facts, because the public were interested in them, and because it was right to make known the tricks and juggles to which these men resorted, who would sacrifice kindred, friendship and candour, to serve their own ends.

A gentleman, whose name we could not learn, proposed the appointment of a committee of twenty members to watch over the rights of the city of London, and to devise the means of guarding against their violation.

But upon Mr. Waithman recommending the propriety of further deliberating about such a measure before it was put to the vote, the honourable gentleman was induced to wave his proposition.

The several resolutions were then put and carried unanimously.

At a meeting of the general committee of the Catholics of Ireland, held at the committee room, No. 4, Crow-street, on the 31st Jan. 1810.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE; BART. IN THE CHAIR.

Resolved, That, solemnly protesting against the unrelenting system of intolerance which the Catholics of Ireland appear to be doomed in this enlightened age to endure, we are yet steadfastly determined to persevere in claiming our emancipation.

And by our constancy in this just pursuit, and by availing ourselves of all warrantable means for this purpose, to prove ourselves worthy of those equal rights and liberties which we demand, and can never consent to forego.

Resolved, That, not dismayed by past disappointments, or deterred by existing difficulties, we shall take every occasion to utter our complaints, to solicit ample discussion, and to render our degraded and oppressed condition universally known—relying, that the unerring influence of justice and sound reason (to which we appeal) must speedily subdue those blind and fatal prejudices which obstruct the freedom and happiness of Ireland.

Resolved, That it is the indispensable duty of this committee to have their petition to parliament presented to both houses, so that the entire merits of our cause may be fairly and amply discussed.

Resolved, That the Earl of Fingall be requested forthwith to cause our petitions to both houses of parliament to be so proceeded upon as to ensure that inquiry and discussion which the honour and interest of the Catholic body imperiously require.

THOMAS ESMONDE, CHAIRMAN.

James Nangle, esq. in the chair.

Resolved, That the thanks of the meeting be given to Sir Thomas Esmonde, Bart. for his dignified and proper conduct in the chair.

EDWARD HAY, SEC.

PUBLIC OCCURRENCES.

BRITISH.

For the information of our readers we select from the Statesman, London Newspaper, the following article. The subject appears to have obtained but little attention in this country, although so clearly affecting a traffic which is so well known on the Coast of Belfast.

BUYING OF BANK NOTES

The apprehension of Mr. De Yonge seems to have failed of producing the desired effect, for Bank Notes, in spite of every effort, continue to be bought at a reduced price. As the actual prosecu-

tion of Mr. De Yonge for the offence of buying Bank of England Notes, has by many been doubted, we have made some inquiry into the affair, and find that a bill of indictment has been found, on which Mr. De Yonge will be tried at the next Sessions. For the information of our Readers we present them with a copy of the first, and abstracts of the four last counts, of this curious document, in which it is averred, that the Notes of the Governor and Company of the Bank of England, called Bank Notes, are of the

value specified on the face of them—and that a Spanish dollar is of the value of five shillings, although intrinsically it is worth no such sum, high as is the present price of the precious metals.

The circumstance of Mr. De Yonge's apprehension are not a little curious. The second witness, J. Call, accompanied by the third, knocked at the door of Mr. De Yonge, who is by birth a Dutchman. Call addressing him fluently in his own language, stated, that he could not speak English, but the person who accompanied him could. Mr. De Yonge, however, replying in the same language, the assistance of an interpreter became unnecessary. Call, then represented himself to have Bank Notes which he wished to exchange for guineas, as he was going to Holland.—After some negotiation an exchange was effected, and Mr. Call and his friend left the house, to which, however, in less than two minutes they returned, accompanied by the other three witnesses mentioned in the indictment, who had been waiting in a coach for the result of the *trap*. One of the three, a Mr. Powell, was a gentleman from the Mint, and the other two Officers. To the great astonishment of Mr. De Yonge, his Dutch friend, Mr. Call, who could speak only Dutch, demanded in good English of Mr. De Yonge the Bank Notes and dollar which he had exchanged for guineas. Those, which Mr. De Yonge produced, they immediately seized, together with Mr. De Yonge himself, who was taken before the Lord Mayor, and subsequently liberated on finding bail.

These are briefly, as we have been informed (and we doubt not correctly) the facts. The value of Bank Notes and stamped Dollars, it remains for a British Jury to ascertain. In the mean time, Mr. De Yonge, who is very far from being in affluent circumstances, has lost his Bank Notes, and, with them, the means of defending himself in such a manner as so very important a case requires. The number of attempts made by the traps on persons suspected of buying Bank Notes, has been very considerable; but, until Mr. De Yonge was caught, they were unsuccessful, and in some instances unfortunate, receiving, instead of guineas, a sound cudgelling.

The Statute on which Mr. De Yonge is indicted, it will be seen, is not stated in the indictment.

It is greatly to be hoped, that this unfortunate victim will not be suffered to want the means of defending himself against the powerful prosecutors with whom

he has to contend, on a question of such public importance. The manner of seducing Mr. De Yonge to the commission of the act, is precisely in unison with that conscientious principle which urged a certain Society to employ agents to purchase meat of butchers on the morning of the Sabbath Day, for the express purpose of fining them for the commission of that offence.

LONDON, } The Jurors for our Lord the
to wit. } King, upon their oath, present that James de Yonge, late of London, labourer, being an evil-disposed person, and not regarding the laws and statutes of this realm, nor fearing the pains and penalties therein contained, on the 26th day of December, in the 50th year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George III. &c. with force and arms, at the parish of St. Botolph, Aldgate, in the ward of Portsoken, in London, aforesaid, unlawfully did exchange certain coined gold of this realm, that is to say, fifty pieces of gold coin of this realm, called guineas, of the value of 52l. 10s. with one Jesnatius Call, receiving of and from the said J. Call, then and there to wit, on the same day and year aforesaid, at the parish and ward aforesaid, in London, aforesaid, more in value, benefit, profit and advantage, for the said coined Gold so exchanged, that is to say, for the said 50 pieces of Gold Coin of this Realm, called Guineas, than the same are declared by a certain Proclamation of his late Majesty King George the First, given at his Court at St. James's, the 29d of November, 1717, in the 4th year of his reign, to be current for within this his Majesty's realm, and others his dominions, that is to say, two Promissory Notes of the Governor and Company of the Bank of England, called Bank Notes, for the payment of the sum of 10l. each, and of the value of 10l. each; two other Promissory Notes of the said Governor and Company, called Bank Notes for the payment of the sum of 5l. each, and of the value of 5l. each; seven other promissory notes of the said Governor and Company, called Bank Notes, for the payment of the sum of 2l. each, and of the value of 2l. each; and twelve other promissory Notes, of the said Governor and Company, called Bank Notes, for the payment of the sum of 1l. each, and of the value of 1l. each; and one piece of silver coin called a Dollar, of the value of Five Shillings, in contempt of our said Lord the King, and his laws, to the evil example of all other persons in the like case offending, against the form of the Statute in that case made and provided;

and against the peace of our said Lord the King, his crown, and dignity.

2d Count—That he received such Notes in exchange, being 3l. 15s. more in value, benefit, profit, and advantage, for the said coined Gold, &c. than the same is declared by the aforesaid Proclamation to be current for.

3d Count—That he did exchange 50 pieces of coined gold money of this realm, called guineas, of the value of 21 shillings each, and together of the value of 52l. 10s. receiving more in value, benefit, profit, and advantage, than the said coined gold money is declared by the said Proclamation to be current for, &c. that is to say, &c. (The Bank Notes and Dollar before mentioned.)

4th Count—That he did exchange with the said J. Call, 50 guineas, being current for no more than 21 shillings each, receiving from him one shilling and sixpence more in value, benefit, profit, and advantage, for each and every of the said guineas, than they are declared by the said Proclamation to be worth, that is to say, (the Bank Notes and Dollar before-mentioned.)

5th Count.—That he unlawfully did exchange with the said J. Call, 50 pieces of coined Gold Money, of the value of 52l. 10s. receiving from him 3l. 15s. more in value, benefit, profit and advantage, for the said pieces, of Gold, than the same are declared to be current for by the said Proclamation.

Witnesses,

CALEB EDWARD POWELL,
JEPHATH CALL,
JOHN BUSH,
ROBERT BROWN,
DANIEL BEN. LEABETTER.

ELOPEMENT.

An elopement has taken place which will make a very considerable noise. The elegant Miss Elwes, daughter of George Elwes, esq. eloped with a young clergyman of Oxford, of the name of Duffield, who was assisted in the plot by two other gentlemen of the cloth on Wednesday 7th February. Mr. Elwes is perhaps, the richest ready-moneyed commoner in England. He is heir to the peculiar virtues of his economical father, and is estimated to be worth near a million of floating disposable cash, and she is his only child. She is under age, but was not made a Ward of Chancery. The plan devised by the three clerical gentlemen, was well concerted.

One of them under pretence of paying his addresses to a lady on a visit to Mrs. Elwes, contrived to be received into the family in the character of her lover, where he was treated with the utmost respect; and this gave him opportunities of arranging the matter for his friend Mr. Duffield. On Wednesday morning he prevailed on Mrs. Elwes to accompany his own intended wife a shopping; and in their absence, he handed with the utmost openness, Miss Elwes to the door, near which a chaise and four was drawn up. He met Mr. Elwes in the hall, who asked them where they were going; she was without a hat or bonnet, and said she was only going to her mamma, who was waiting for her. The reverend gentleman proceeded with her, placed her in the chaise by the side of her gallant, and returned to the house with the utmost unconcern. Mr. Elwes had inquired in the mean time, how long Mrs. Elwes had been out, and seeing her conductor return, inquired where his daughter was. The clergymen with perfect sang froid, told him he had delivered her to the man destined to make her happy; and that she was off to Gretna Green, where he advised him to follow, and assist in the ceremony. The distress of Mr. Elwes, and still more of Mrs. Elwes, on her return may be conceived. They both set off in a post chaise and four, on the north road; but we believe they proceeded no farther than St. Alban's where not having heard the least account of their route, they resolved to return; and yesterday no tidings had been received of the happy pair.

Morning Chronicle.... We are requested to state, that Mr. Duffield, who has eloped with Miss Elwes, is a Layman, and that none of the parties concerned were clergymen. We understand that Mr. D's addresses had been permitted two years ago, but some change in the opinions of the governing part of the family had arisen, and other suitors were strongly recommended to the young lady. She, however, continued constant to her first attachment. The gentleman who handed Miss E. to the door, was a real suitor to the lady visiting in the house, and their union is expected shortly to take place. Mr. D. arrived safe at Gretna Green, on Thursday night, and was immediately married to his fair and lovely companion.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

At 2 o'clock on Saturday February 3d, an inquest was held before An-

thony Gell, esq. coroner for Westminster, on the body of a young man, name unknown, then lying dead at the house of J. Norris, the Northumberland Arms, Great Russell-street, Covent-garden.

From the testimony of Mr. Thomas Harris, master of the Garrick Head tavern, in Bow-street, it appeared that the deceased had come to his house on Tuesday morning last, in company with another person, who appeared to the witness to be a stranger to the deceased, and whom the witness supposed to be a Jew. They had coffee and toast for breakfast, ate uncommonly hearty, and had a decanter of Madeira on their breakfast table, which they completely emptied, and the deceased paid for the whole. He continued at the Garrick's Head the greater part of Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, only going out at intervals to see the town, as he said, and also to go to the oratorio and the play. The Jew was not above twice or three times in his company; the deceased was alone the greater part of the time, still, however continuing to live in the most extravagant style, eating uncommonly hearty, and drinking very freely at all hours of the day, of the most costly wines, but constantly paying for every thing as he had it. Though he had very much the demeanour of a gentleman, yet still there was something in his dress, which induced the landlord to think that he moved in some of the inferior walks of life; his coat was a coarse brown frock, like that generally worn by stablemen. He at one time however, spoke about his having respectable connections in the country, but at another time denied his having a friend in the world. Upon the whole, there was a good deal of inconsistency in his conduct, and contradiction in his discourse, which occasioned the landlord to suspect he laboured under a derangement of intellect. On Thursday about four in the afternoon, he was very importunate in his solicitations to a waiter and a boy who attended him, to procure him a large sharp knife, to shave the leaves of a book, which

he said he had just bought near the Garrick's Head. Upon inquiry however, it was found that no person of his description had bought any book that day in the neighbourhood. The knife was peremptorily refused to be given him, and he quitted the house, observing that the people seemed to be extremely suspicious of him, but that he would go and buy himself a knife. The landlord thought of giving him in charge to a police officer, but whilst one of his servants went in quest of Donaldson, the constable, the deceased disappeared, and the witness heard no more about him until nine o'clock at night, when a watchman told him of the melancholy event which had taken place.

By subsequent evidence, it appeared that the deceased went to a cutler's shop in Russell-court, where he bought a knife for the avowed purpose of sticking a pig with it;—he had it well sharpened, as he said he had a very large pig to kill with it. He then paid a shilling for it, and upon getting it into his possession, told the woman of the house that he intended to cut his own throat with it. She then said, "I hope you won't let the devil get such hold of you as that;" but he answered, "Its no matter; things have gone too far."—After a vain endeavour to coax him to let her have the knife again, she assured him that she would not for all the money in England have sold him the knife, if she had known the use he was going to make of it.—He said that was of no consequence, for if she had not sold it, another would. He looked wild, cut some capers in the shop, and darted off. He then went to the Northumberland Arms, where he said he had just come out of Lincolnshire, and had not slept a wink for two nights, and required a bed directly. He was furnished with a bed in the two pair of stairs front room, and in a few minutes after the servant had left him, the people of the house were alarmed with his moans. Upon going into the room, he was seen lying on the bed with his throat desperately cut, the bed and floor being almost covered with blood. Mr. John

Cole, a surgeon in Russell-street, was brought in, but the wind pipe was entirely severed, and all signs of life were gone. The deceased appears to be about 26 or 27 years of age; five feet ten or eleven inches high; he had 10s. 6d. in his pocket, and there was also found in one of his pockets about two yards of rope, about the size of bed cord.

Verdict deranged in his mind, and in that state cut his throat with a butcher's knife, value 1s.

SHOCKING ACCIDENT.

An extract of a letter from Liverpool, dated Sunday, February 11, says—"I am sorry to have to communicate to you a dreadful accident, which happened here this morning. The spire of St. Nicholas, commonly called the Old Church, fell in, about ten minutes before the time of service, extending from the tower up to the communion table, all which was desolated in an instant, and now presents a most awful spectacle. It is supposed that 30, chiefly old women and the children of a Sunday Charity School, have been killed, besides a number with fractured limbs, skulls, and otherwise dreadfully mutilated! They had been pinning the foundation at the north-west angle of the tower; and, it is feared, that this dreadful accident is to be attributed to neglect, or suffering the bells to be rung whilst the tower was in this obvious state of insecurity. The spire of George's church, in Liverpool, has lately been taken down, owing to the repeated and urgent representations of the neighbouring inhabitants, and though it was in a tottering state for a considerable time, the wishes of the people in the neighbourhood were utterly disregarded. We trust the Corporation of this town will see the necessity of consulting professional men upon the situation of buildings which are in a state of imminent peril.

On Friday evening February 9th at his house, in Ely Place, London, suddenly, aged 37, J. C. Saunders, esq. late demonstrator of anatomy, at St. Thomas's hospital, and surgeon to the London infirmary for curing diseases of the eye. In him the world has lost a man of science, and the poor a friend. He administered to the prevention and cure of blindness, with an humanity that must for ever make him live in the recollection of those who have been benefited by the application of his great talents. In the treatment of diseases of the eye, he was eminently successful; and his name will be remembered by posterity with admiration and gratitude, for

having ascertained the means of giving sight to children born blind with cataracts.

CALEB WHITEFOORD, Esq.—We are very sorry to inform the public, that this gentleman died on Sunday morning, at his house in Argyle-street. He was well known in the first polite and literary circles, and possessed great talents and information. He had a turn for wit and humour, and a store of anecdotes, which rendered his society very entertaining.—He was particularly successful in classical allusions, and was esteemed a very good scholar. He was honourable and liberal in all his dealings, and there was a firm sincerity in his manner upon all occasions, which strongly indicated a hatred of dissimulation and disguise. He was very active and zealous in his friendships, and in his endeavours to promote the success of dawning genius. His taste for the arts was a predominant feature in his character, and is manifest in a very large and valuable collection of pictures, which he has left to his family. There are, perhaps more portraits by Sir Joshua Reynolds in this collection, than can be found in any other.

Mr. Whitefoord was the author of many works of approved merit, though he never put his name to any of his productions, which were chiefly confined to the journals of the day; and he was formerly very liberal in his literary contributions to the "Public Advertiser," of which he was then one of the proprietors.

Mr. Whitefoord struck out a new species of humour, which was known by the name of cross readings, and when he first communicated it to the public, he gave the apt signature of *papyrus cursor*. It is hardly necessary to observe, that the design of this whimsical scheme, was to read along the lines of the several columns of a newspaper into one another, instead of to the end of each, by which means many odd and diverting coincidences were often produced; but those struck out by his fancy, on proposing the scheme, were far superior, in point of wit and humour, to any thing that has since appeared of the same nature. Another very diverting essay on the "Errors of the Press," contributed to bring Mr. Whitefoord's name into notice, and many excellent effusions of political humour and satire he conveyed to the public under the title of "Ship News." Upon the whole, he was a man of distinguished talents, a zealous friend to his country, a loyal subject, and a very respectable member of society.—His friend Goldsmith winds up his character in Retaliation with the following appropriate lines;

Merry Whitefoord, farewell! for thy sake I admit,
That a Scot may have humour, I had almost said wit;
This debt to thy memory I cannot refuse,
"Thou best natur'd man, with the worst humour'd muse."

With regard to his lighter productions; his success encouraged a herd of imitators, until at length as is usual in the case of imitation, what was supported in him by original genius, fell into discredit by the failure of his imitators. Success gives ephemeral reputation, which lures the in-

judicious, till the public become disgusted with attempts at false wit, and such things sink into merited oblivion.— Even in the present case, Caleb Whitefoord, lived to see this specimen of wit justly fall into disrepute. A warning to wits, and still more to imitating withings, that though the coruscations of genius may give a temporary credit, yet utility and close research, can alone confer permanent reputation, and a lasting fame.— "I paint for eternity;" was the language of a man, who sought for fame, not in doing trifles well, but in laborious well directed efforts.

DOMESTIC OCCURRENCES.

IRISH,

DUBLIN COMMISSION INTELLIGENCE.

Tuesday, February 20.

CONSPIRACY.

Arthur Downes, Owen Reynolds, and H. O'Beirne stood indicted, for that they being ill-disposed persons, and intending the liege subjects of the king, by divers false pretences, to cheat of their monies, goods and chattles, on the 1st day of November last, did conspire to draw upon each other bills of exchange for large sums of money, and represent the parties to the said bills to be solvent; and did open a shop for the pretended sale of woollen and linen drapery, at No. 190, Great Britain-street, and deceitfully deposited trusses of hay, resembling by their covering woollen and linen cloth, and in furtherance of the conspiracy did agree to purchase from Anthony Pusterla, a looking glass, value 10l. and tender in payment a bill, purporting to be drawn by Arthur Downes on Michael Reynolds, for 10l. and represented that the said persons were persons of property, and that the bill would be paid, by which deceit O'Beirne fully obtained a looking glass. There were other counts in the indictment, laying the conspiracy to cheat in various ways.

John Murphy examined by Mr. Torrens.—Lives in Britain-street, in the city of Dublin; lived there in the month of September; a person named Reynolds came to him in that month to

BELFAST MAG. NO. XIX.

take a shop, parlour, and kitchen, and gave a memorandum in writing, that it was for the drapery business; there was another person (one of the prisoners) O'Beirne—Witness set him the shop; was to be paid forty pounds yearly; the shop was taken possession of the same day; cannot say it was Reynolds took possession; but as soon as Michael Reynolds got possession, the door was fastened; and in a fortnight after the name, A. Downes, was placed over the door; witness had no dealings with Downes; the kitchen was not taken possession of; there was a communication from the parlour to the hall, which was never opened after they came, and no person could get to them but through the shop door; the house was not used by them for any necessary purpose, either of water or candle-light; the candles were lighted at Clarke's a public house; they got punch from the house ready made; they did not make use of the necessary belonging to the house; never was in the shop but one night when they refused to shut it, and witness was obliged to sit up till half past one o'clock; the prisoner Downes was the most constant there; saw O'Beirne there frequently with a lady who he said was his wife; never saw Owen Reynolds there; Downes called himself Muldoon at the head office; witness never knew his name before; on the 9th of January had an opportunity of examining the

V

goods; there were about two hundred bundles of hay covered with cloth, (some of them were produced and identified.) Some of the parcels had paper on them; does not know of any persons applying to purchase goods, but knows of a multitude of bills having called for payment; the protests were not served at the house. The persons who asked for payment generally inquired for Downes.

Wm. Jackson said he presented the bill for payment, and recognized the prisoner O'Beirne, as having been at his master's house in the beginning of January. Took the bill to 190, Britain-street, to a Mr. Downes—it was accepted, but did not see Mr. Downes accept it. He saw the other two prisoners in the shop—presented the bill to one of the prisoners; they went behind the counter. Muldoon went to the desk, and returned the bill accepted. The prisoner Reynolds was busy settling the business in the shop. Witness, by direction of the prisoner O'Beirne, directed the parcel to Rathleague, county of Roscommon.

George Young examined—is a hatter, living in Temple-bar; knows the prisoner O'Beirne, who came to witness's house in the month of January to purchase hats, which he did to the amount of £13 and gave a bill signed by himself, on Arthur Downes; a friend drew the bill at his desire. The bill was duly accepted, and the goods were to be directed to Henry O'Beirne, Rathkeale, and to be forwarded to one Wheatley, an inn keeper, in Black-hall place.

George Gillington is a cabinet-maker; knows the prisoner O'Beirne, with whom he agreed to sell goods on the 27th or 28th of October last, six chairs and a bason-stand; he offered a bill drawn by Michael Reynolds on Arthur Downes in favour of O'Beirne; he said he would bring a man for them, but the witness had suspicion, and sent his porter with them to his lodgings in Fitzwilliam place.

Several other witnesses were examined to prove the negotiation of bills under circumstances similar to those previously produced.

Major Sitt examined by Mr. Torrens.—Produced a number of bills

found on the person of the prisoner O'Beirne, drawn and directed as the other bills.

The Jury, after an able charge from Judge Day, in which he went fully into the law, as applicable to the case, and which he left for their consideration, whether the prisoners had entered into a conspiracy to cheat and defraud or not, found the prisoners guilty.

Died, at Moyallon, in the county of Down, Thomas Phelps Sen. an eminent lineudraper. He was a man of the strictest probity, joined with an openness and a pleasing freedom of manners which conciliated the esteem of his acquaintances, and in an especial manner the regards of the poorer classes of society, with whom his extensive trade brought him acquainted, particularly in those excellent schools of equality, the markets for the sale of brown linens. His liberalities to the poor were extensive, and his purse was ever open to promote plans of usefulness, to clothe the naked, and instruct the ignorant by the encouragement of school. "Slave to no sect, he took no private road," but his religion was of that practical kind, which consisted in doing good, and regulating his heart, and having made these essentials his prime concern, he did not suffer a large arrear to accumulate to be settled on his death bed, as too many do, who trust to certain ceremonies to be then practised, and certain anxieties to be then endured to atone for the habitual neglect of duties through life. Consequently the approach of death brought no terrors, and having lived in regular preparation he was free from the fears which often torment in the last moments of a mispent existence; and to which also somewhat meaning people of a fearful cast sometimes give way, and make their lives unhappy by an unprofitable fear of death, while others live as if they were never to die.

Free from both extremes, he bore a long and painful illness with patience and resignation, and has left a lasting memorial of esteem in the memory of his friends. Without giving way to the fulsome style of panegyric too common in recording deaths, it may be allowed, to give the due meed of praise to departed worth, not to gratify the vanity of surviving relatives, but to hold up a conduct worthy of imitation to all. In recording a brief memorial of such characters, the impressive language is held out. "Go thou and live likewise"—

Let us follow his example, and in the words of the poet.

“Go fix some weighty truth,
Chain down some passion, do some generous good;
Teach ignorance to see, or grief to smile,
Correct thy friend; befriend thy greatest foe,
Or with warm heart, and confidence divine,
Spring up, and lay strong hold on him who made thee.”

ULSTER.

Married... Mr. John Fottrel, to Miss Fegan, both of Newry.

Wm. Hanna, esq. of Acton, co. Armagh, to Miss Louisa Chancy of North Great Georges Street, Dublin.

At Belfast, Mr. Wm. Henry, to Miss Moore, of British, Kilkad.

Mr. John Hacket, to Miss Anne Maguire, both of Enniskillen.

Mr. James Dumicker of Belfast, to Miss Fanny Maccowan.

Wm. Lyons, esq. of Oldpark, to Miss Anne Bristow, daughter of the late Rev. Wm. Bristow.

Mr. Andrew Hamilton, of Ballywalter, to Miss M'Murry of Hill-hall.

Mr. John Clarke of Break, to Miss Kerberry of Portadown

Mr. Hugh M'Clean of Clibberstown, to Miss Mary Watson of Battletown.

Mr. Henry Moore, to Miss Beatty, both of Belfast.

Deaths... Mr. George Kearns, near Lisburn.

At Omagh, Mr. Andrew Harvey.

At Strabane, Mrs. M. Rutherford relict of the late Mr. Robert Rutherford.

At Banbridge, Mr. John Savage.

At Belfast, Mr. Thomas Read, merchant.

Miss M. Ann Ashmur, of Newry.

Mrs. M'Master, relict of the late Sam. M'Master.

At Roan, near Armagh, Mr. Henry Wm. Dickson, eldest son of the Rev. Wm. Steel Dickson.

Rev. John Law, dissenting minister of Banagher.

In Ferry-quay-street, Derry, Miss L. Hasted.

In the Diamond, Derry, Mrs. Kennedy, wife of Mr. Philip Kennedy.

At Armagh, Mr. Wm. Daleell, woollen draper.

Mr. Stewart Graham, of Ballynasy.

Mr. James Caldwell, of Dunfanaghy.

Mr. Thomas Henry, of Ballyhossit.

At Armagh, Mr. Wm. Daniel.

Mr. David Kincaid of Ballymena, aged

81.

LEINSTER.

Married... James Merge esq. to Miss C. Palmer, daughter of the late Rev. Arthur Palmer of Kilkenny.

Alexander Thompson, esq. to Miss White, daughter of Charles White, esq. of Ballybroley, Queen's county.

Mr. Murphy, of Great Britain Street, Dublin, to Miss Sarah Reed, of Granby Row.

Mr. James Purcel of Dublin, Merchant, to Miss Mary Maquay, of Baunow, Wexford.

Terence Curtayne, M.D. to Miss Ann Thornburgh, Crescent. near Dublin.

Mr. John Flynn of Hendrick street, to Miss Rausford, of St. Andrew's street.

Stephen Carnes, esq. of Usher's Island Dublin, to Miss Maria Wisdom, of the county Wicklow.

At Black Castle, county Meath, Thos. Rathwell, esq. of Rockfield, to Letitia, only daughter of James Corry, esq. of Chantinee.

At Carlow, Joseph Lightburn, esq. of Bellewstown, to Miss P. Meadows of Newbury, in the county of Wexford.

Thomas Dennis, esq. of Meadville, co. Westmeath, to Miss Saunders daughter, of Morley Saunders esq. Saunders Grove, co. Wicklow.

Mr. John Kernan of Upper Bridge-street, Dublin, to Miss Eleanor Meighan, of Enniskillen.

Mr. Wm. Williams, to Mrs. Chevalier of Capel-street, Dublin.

Died... Patrick Kelly esq. of North-Frederick street, Dublin.

In Dame-street, Dublin, Mr. William O'Neil, watch maker.

In Westmorland-street, Mr. Richard Taylor, Woollen draper.

In South Great Georges-street, Mr. John Eardley.

Rev. Charles Doran, P.P. of Monaster-even.

Benjamin Biggs, esq. of Mount-street Dublin.

Mr. Thomas McCullough, of church-street, Dublin.

MUNSTER.

Married... John White esq. of Carick-on-Suir, to Mrs. Lonergan, widow of the late Bryan Lonergan, esq.

Died... At Waterford, Mrs. Evans, wife of Samuel Evans, esq.

CONNAUGHT.

Married... At Castletucker, county Mayo, Charles Nesbit Knox, esq. of the county Sligo, to Miss Cuffe, daughter of lord Tyrawly.

Captain Lambert, of the Galway Regiment, to Miss Ellen Seymour of Shannon Grove, county Galway.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT.*From January 20, till February 20.*

THE weather has continued remarkably mild for the season; during the last four weeks, very little frost or storm has intervened to interrupt the progress of the Plough, and notwithstanding this, there appears but a small proportion of the land designed for Corn, turned up in many parts of the country.

Wheat in most districts has a favourable appearance, and we may hope for a plentiful crop of that grain this year, to compensate for the deficiency of the last.

Very little alteration has taken place in the prices of grain since last report, there is as yet no certainty of the public licensed stills being allowed to work, which if determined in the affirmative, it has been alleged, would considerably raise the price of oats; and indeed considering that such an opinion has been generally circulated, it is not improbable that oats and oat meal would advance for some time, but it is also probable that the rise would be only temporary.

The last year's crop of oats was certainly a good one, and there is a large stock in the country.

The distillers could not afford to give a high price for grain, and they would consequently limit their agents in that respect, and if proper measures are pursued to suppress the private stills, which it is the duty of the Government and the interest of the country to do; there seems very little, if any reason for apprehending that a scarcity will be the consequence, of preferring public to private distillation, a legal productive manufacture to a clandestine and wasteful consumption of grain, which corrupts the morals of the people in the districts where it is carried on, occasions a great deficiency in the revenue, and must compel the government to lay on additional taxes, to supply the want.

The openness of the weather during the winter months, has been favourable for saving hay and straw; and the scarcity expected to have resulted from the loss by floods and heavy rains, in the hay season, will not be much felt.

COMMERCIAL REPORT.

BORN in and out of parliament, the praises of our great trade are trumpeted forth, but it is not all gold that glitters. Great as are the entries at the custom-houses, many articles are sent to distant markets, as for instance, to South America, where the sale is uncertain, and the profits eventually often very small, and in some cases the adventures are attended with loss. In forming the estimates of our real state, many deductions must on these accounts be made: but even if trade flourished more than is really the case, the wisdom of our orders in council and other commercial regulations is not proved. Trade does not flourish in consequence of these pernicious regulations, but rather their baneful influence has not hitherto proved able to repress our commercial energies.

The United States of North America still present an appearance of hostility. Pressed by France, and irritated by England, they find it difficult to preserve their neutral rights. War with one or both of the contending parties will probably be the result. In the mean time, trade suffers from the fluctuating accounts which arrive in succession, and almost daily change the appearance of the markets for American produce.

The late linen market in Dublin was unusually bad for fine linens. Coarse linens, which were rather scarce, sold but at reduced prices, compared with those obtained at the former market. Some of the linens bought some months ago, on speculation, sold at nine-pence per yard under the prices at which they were bought. The speculators deserved to suffer, as by their schemes, they materially deranged the regular state of the manufacture. These linens selling at such reduced rates, obstructed the usual sales; the buyers still holding off, in hopes of obtaining similar bargains.

Distillation from grain is likely to be permitted in Ireland. The policy of this measure is very questionable, for although the harvest was pretty abundant in Ireland, and potatoes, our essential support, in plenty, still England is not secure from the danger of prices rising too high. A stop should be put to illicit distillation, as destructive to morals and injurious to the revenue. It is at present carried on to a great extent both in Ireland and Scotland. If importations of grain from France, which are so rapidly draining from us the remains of our specie, were stopped, and the English market exclusively confined to their own produce, and the importations from Ireland, the Irish land-holder would probably have no just cause to complain of low prices.

It is cause of regret that our collieries are so badly wrought in Ireland. Want of capital may be one cause. A present profit is sought without regard to permanent advantage, and so long as a small supply of inferior coals is procured, the proprietors will not be at the trouble and expense to sink deeper for good coal, although they might reasonably expect to be ultimately amply compensated. These remarks apply to the coal-pits near Dungannon and Coalisland in the county of Tyrone. At present the neighbourhood is supplied with coals of a very inferior quality, at the high price of 16s. 8d. per ton, at the pit, which, considering the quality, and the rapidity with which they burn, are dearer than English coal, at more than double the price. If these pits were judiciously and vigorously wrought, coals of a vastly superior quality might probably be procured, and the sale greatly extended, so as to be of much national advantage.

It is said that speculation has been discovered by the board of commissioners of inquiry in Ireland, in an officer of a certain board, connected with the staple trade of this country. We wish no attempts will be made to screen offenders, but that inquiry may be still further extended. A trade established in a country now upwards of a century should be able to stand alone. Boards may expend much of the public money in the way of patronage and in injudicious schemes, without materially benefiting the manufacture.

The bounty on saving flaxseed has been equally extended to that saved from flax that has not been stacked. If there was any use in the premium, the alteration was proper, though it is probable that more has been lost in the attempts to save seed, than the value of the quantity saved. A trade which cannot be carried on without bounties must be unprofitable. In a commercial point of view the system is bad; to the friend of liberty, they are also highly objectionable, as unduly increasing the patronage and influence of government.

The depreciation of bank notes proceeds in England with rapid strides, and as the traffic in buying and selling guineas is not open and avowed, the liability to imposition is greatly increased. The situation of trade at present is very similar to the state which preceded the restriction on the bank in 1797, not to pay in specie. This measure proved our declining credit. The balance usually due from foreign countries to Great Britain had been diminished from the commencement of the war in 1793, by the subsidies granted to foreign powers, by the expenditures of our armies on the continent, and the extraordinary demand for corn to supply the deficiency of the bad harvest of 1795, to which must be added the Austrian loan of seven millions just then negotiated. The price of bullion rapidly rose, when it was found necessary to send gold to the continent to pay the balance due by Great Britain, and the mint declined to coin in such large quantities. For twelve years ending with the year 1796, £2,500,000 a year had been issued during the first ten years, and only £500,000 a year during the last two years, and this omission could only have proceeded from the price of bullion being above the price of gold in coin. It suited at that time the plans of Pitt, by establishing paper money to keep up the funds, and make his taxes productive, and he brought forward the bank restriction act. The consequence was as might have been foreseen, a rise on all the articles of life, occasioned by the inordinate issue of paper, as the check of paying in specie was removed both from the national banks and from private bankers. The circulating medium was increased in quantity, and decreased in value. These effects were manifested by a greater quantity being given for every article. All these causes have been lately greatly aggravated by the costly expeditions to Spain, Portugal and Holland, by the policy of Bonaparte excluding, in a great measure, our manufactures from the continent, by the impolicy of our Orders in Council, preventing the trade of North America with the continent of Europe, which formerly supplied a fund to pay the balance due to the powers of the Baltic, and finally, by the large quantities of wheat lately imported from France, and which was paid for in specie. Thus, the fact of depreciation is daily becoming more manifest, and forces itself on public attention, in the course of its alarming and rapidly accelerating progress.

In our last report, an error slipped into the account of the prosecution of the *Jew*. The charge against him was for *selling* not *buying* guineas. Among the occurrences, at page 148, will be found an account of this interesting case. From the vagueness of the indictment, we shall be disappointed, if an independent Jury pronounce him guilty, or find on their oaths, that a bank of England note is really worth in specie, the amount marked on it.

It is difficult to ascertain the exact premium on guineas in London at present, as the trade in them is clandestine; they are certainly very scarce. We have heard they do not bring less than from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* per guinea, or from 7½ to 10 per cent. From the quantity bought in Belfast to send to Dublin, to be there sold for transmission to England, this country is likely soon to be stripped of the small quantity at present in circulation amongst us.

Exchange on London, is for bank notes in Belfast, 2½ to 2½ per cent, and for guineas 6 to 6½. Discount on bank notes has risen to 2½ and 2½ per cent.

NATURALIST'S REPORT.

From January 20, till February 20.

Where now the subtle energy that moved
While summer was, the pure and subtle lymph,
Through th' imperceptible meand'ring veins,
Of leaf and flow'r? It sleeps; and th' icy touch
Of unprolific winter has impressed
A cold stagnation on the intestine tide.
But let the months go round, a few short months,
And all shall be restored. These naked shoots,
Barren as lances, among which the wind
Makes wintry music, sighing as it goes,
Shall put their graceful foliage on again,
And more aspiring, and with ampler spread,
Shall boast new charms, and more than they have lost.

COWPER'S TASK, BOOK 6.

THE continually changing face of nature presents from day to day, fresh subjects worthy of contemplation; the variety of temperature, and its effects on animals and vegetables is often so surprising, as to bid defiance to the keenest research, yet although we cannot penetrate to the inmost recesses of the Temple of Nature, we never endeavour to investigate the Mysteries without advantage. After the most piercing frost, many young and apparently tender seedlings escape the rigorous cold without injury, while the gentlest autumnal frost would kill the same species, when arrived at a state of maturity. Attentive gardeners taking advantage of this vital energy possessed by plants while in a vigorous state of growth, cut them down at that period, in order to prevent this latent principle from being expended in the production of flowers and seed.

From the same cause a variety of plants bear transplanting in spring, when the vital principle is in action, which would not succeed were they removed in Autumn, or through the winter, while their juices were inactive.

It has long been remarked by gardeners, that the holly, and most evergreen trees and shrubs, agreed best with transplanting late in spring; but few have observed that the particular period was pointed out by the swelling of the buds and evolving of the leaves, and for want of attention to this sign, many plants are lost by premature transplanting.

The mildness of the season promised an early spring, many of the bulbous-rooted plants had risen high above ground, early Crocuses began to show their flower buds, and the buds of various trees had begun to swell, when the late severe weather checked their further progress, and we may now hope that the wintry blast will be completely exhausted before our fruit trees blossom.

January 23, The Wood Lark (*Alauda Arborea*) singing.

28, Snow-drops (*Galanthus nivalis*) began to flower, their beautiful buds appeared some time ago.

30, Made the first sowing of peas.

31, Single blue Hepatica (*Anemone Hepatica*) flowering.

February 3, Great blue Titmouse, or Tom Tit (*Parus major*) singing.

4, Some flowers blown on a red Mezereon (*Daphne Mezereon*.)

6, Some flowers blown of the common Primrose (*Primula Acaulis*) and Pilewort (*Ranunculus Ficaria*.)

- 7, The Redbreast (*Sylvia Rubecula*) singing very generally.
 8, Spurge Laurel (*Daphne Laureola*) in flower. Single red Hepatica (*Anemone Hepatica*) flowering.
 Chaffinch (*Fringilla Cœlebs*) begun to sing.
 10, Yellow Hellebore (*Helleborus hyemalis*) in flower.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

From January 20, till February 20.

In the report of last month, it was mentioned how similar was the weather to that of the corresponding month, 19 years ago; but as the present period has varied very much from the end of January and beginning of February of the year 1791, there is reason to think that if Mr. Toaldo's hypothesis should hold good in the climate of Italy, we can place little dependance on it in our climate, where the winds determine the weather, and the irregular changes of which, give as yet no certain data from which to prognosticate.

January 22, 24,	Dry fine days.
25, 29,	Light rain and hazy.
30,	Wet night.
31,	Showery day.
February 1, 2,	Dry fine days.
3, 4,	Dry and frosty.
5, 6,	Light rain in the evenings.
7,	Dry.
8, 9,	Light rain,
10,	Dry.
11, 12,	Rainy.
13, 14,	Rain and sleet, deep snow on the mountains.
15,	Hard frost.
16,	Snowy morning, a fine day.
17,	Hard frost, and fine day.
18,	{ Fall of snow in the morning, all thawed with very little rain before night.
19, 20,	Hard frost and fine days.

The range of the barometer has been more considerable than usual during this period, on the 23d, 25th, and 26th of January, and 25th of February, it stood as high as 30.3 and on the 13th of February, it was as low as 28.7; the remaining time it varied little either above or below 30.

The thermometer observed in the morning, experienced considerable variation; on the 1st of February it was 51°, on the 6th 48°, while on the 15th it was as low as 24½, on the 17th and 20th, it stood at 25°.

The prevalent wind has been S. W. which it was observed 17 times. It was also observed to be N. E. 6, S. E. 5 times. W. 1, E. 1, and N. once.

CELESTIAL PHENOMENA,

FOR MARCH, 1810.

ON the 1st, the moon rises at 19 min. past 4, A. M. and sets at 43 min. past 0, P. M. hence she will not be visible except in the morning before sunrise.

5, Is new moon, at which time she rises and sets nearly at the same time with the Sun, and is, consequently, invisible during the whole night.

10, She may be seen under the Pleiades, but to the east of the line, between them and Menkar. The groupe formed by the two planets to the west, and the Moon and Aldebaran to the east, are interesting. At 9, she is 56° 35' from the second of the Twins.

15, The moon passes the meridian at 8, having the second of the twins directly above, and the first of the Lesser Dog directly below her, but she is much nearer to the latter star. The first of the Twins and the second of the Lesser Dog, are, of course, to the west

of the meridian. At 9, she is $32^{\circ} 55'$ from the first of the Lion, and $47^{\circ} 21'$ from Aldebaran.

20, She passes the meridian at 54 min. past eleven, below the second and the seventh of the Virgin, the second being to the west, and the seventh to the east of the meridian, but she is nearer to the latter star. At 9, she is $24^{\circ} 20'$ from the first of the Virgin, and $29^{\circ} 48'$ from the first of the Lion.

25, She rises nearly at the same time with the second of the Scorpion, and is followed by Antares and Saturn, forming with the two stars and the planet, an irregular oblong, the distance between her and the second of the scorpion, being the least of the sides.

30, She rises soon after the two first stars of the Goat, and is perceived to be receding very fast from them.

Mercury is a morning star during the whole of this month; his greatest elongation is on the 16th. The moon passes him on the third.

Venus is in her superior conjunction on the 15th, of course she will be too near the sun to be visible. The Moon passes her on the fifth.

Mars is an evening star, and will be seen soon after sun-set, about the middle of the lower region, near west by south; and every night his height, at the same time of the evening, is diminished. Jupiter is seen above him, at first, at some distance, but this is daily decreasing, and the astronomer will have continual opportunities of comparing these two planets together. The moon passes him on the seventh.

Jupiter is an evening star, being seen soon after sun-set, under the three first stars of the Ram. The Moon passes him on the eighth.

Saturn is a morning star; he is stationary on the 24th, and of course will vary his position very little during the whole month. The Moon passes him on the 26th.

Herschell is on the meridian at four in the morning of the first; his motion is retrograde through about $\frac{1}{4}$ of a degree. The Moon passes him on the 24th.

ECLIPSES OF JUPITER'S SATELLITES.

1st SATELLITE.				2d SATELLITE.				3d SATELLITE.							
Emissions.				Emissions.											
DAYS.	H.	M.	S.	DAYS.	H.	M.	S.	DAYS.	H.	M.	S.	DAYS.	H.	M.	S.
2	2	43	36	3	1	39	14	6	17	1	7	Im.			
3	21	12	29	6	14	57	4	6	19	4	7	E.			
5	15	41	29	10	4	14	56	13	21	3	32	Im.			
7	10	10	21	13	17	32	45	13	23	6	5	E.			
9	4	39	21	17	6	50	34	21	1	6	30	Im.			
10	23	8	11	20	20	8	24	21	3	8	39	E.			
12	17	37	11	24	9	26	14	28	5	8	28	Im.			
14	12	6	0	27	22	44	4	28	7	10	19	E.			
16	6	35	0												
18	1	5	49												
19	10	32	48												

Look to the right hand.*

* First Satellite Continued.

21	14	1	36
23	8	30	33
25	2	59	22
26	21	28	18
28	15	57	7

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Doctor Hancock on Lunatic Asylums; the Epitaph on Mr. Phelps; the paper signed Atticus; and A. Z. S. M. S. on Fabrics, and the translation of French verses by J. W. E. shall be inserted in the next number.

The verses signed Esword, are not suitable to our work; and the translation of Barreaux's Sonnet selected by S. M. S. from the Poetical Calendar, and the prose translation of the same, by X. cannot be admitted.

Two papers by S. D. one by Mœcenas, and one by Z, the Poetic Epistle of Sappho, and the Jeu d'esprit, of I., have been received, and will be submitted to the proprietors.

ERRATA.

Page 90, line 23, for Roman read Roman....P. 91, l. 17, for Mundis read Mundi....P. 94, l. 29, for Wild read Weld, and for Heyman, read Hume....P. 100, At end of paper on Persian History, insert the signature Mirkhand.

BELFAST MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

No. 20.]

MARCH 31, 1810.

[Vol. 4.]

COMMUNICATIONS, ORIGINAL AND SELECTED.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

GENTLEMEN,

THIS paper was suggested by the appearance of the Almanacks for 1810. As the chronological notes which are usually put down in those publications are not very generally understood, perhaps a short account of their nature and use, may not be unacceptable to some of your readers.

Dominical Letter.

The days of the week are distinguished as the notes in music are, by the first seven letters of the alphabet. The first day of the year is noted by A. the second by B. the third by C. and so on to the seventh, which of course is noted by G. The eighth or first day of the second week, has A annexed to it, the ninth B. the tenth C. and so on; the series of seven letters being continually repeated, according to the weeks in the year. Now, one of these letters must stand opposite to *Sunday*, and by its recurrence every week, in the calendar, will point out the *Sundays* throughout the year. It is therefore called the *Dominical* or *Sunday* letter.

Had the days of the year formed exactly a certain number of weeks, the dominical letter would have been continually the same. But dividing 365 by 7, we find 52, and one day over. Hence it follows, that when the year consists of 365 days, it will end on the same day of the week on which it began; and so, the next year will commence on the day following. Thus, as the year 1809 began on Sunday, it also ended on Sunday, and the year 1810 commenced on Monday, and as the dominical letter for 1809 was A. for the year 1810, it will be G.

BELFAST MAG. NO. XX.

According to this it appears, that the dominical letters move regularly in a retrograde order: and, of course, did all years consist of only 365 days, after a period of seven years, the same days of the month would return to the same days of the week. But every fourth year has 366 days; so that the year which follows leap year, will commence two days later.

Thus, the order of the dominical letter is interrupted, and the series cannot return to its first state, till after a period of 28 years. This period is called the—

Cycle of the Sun.

After which, the days of the months return again to the same days of the week, and the sun's place to the same signs and degrees of the ecliptic, on the same months and days.

Leap years have always two dominical letters; the former noting the *Sundays* till the 24th or 25th of February, and the latter for the rest of the year; for in the *Bissextile* year, the 24th and 25th of February are reckoned as one and the same day, and have the same letter annexed to them.

The dominical letter is of use in constructing tables to find the day of the month answering to any day of the week. or the day of the week answering to any day of the month, for any year past or to come. Of course, among other things, it is useful in forming tables, for finding Easter for any year; as may be seen by turning to the tables for finding Easter, annexed to the Book of Common Prayer.

The Cycle of the Moon.

is a period of 19 years, after which the new and full moons return to the same days of the month. At the time of the council of Nice, when the terms were settled for ob-

w

serving Easter, the numbers of the lunar cycle were inserted in the calendar; and on account of their singular use, they were set in letters of gold. Hence the year of the cycle for any year was called the *golden number* for that year. According to this cycle, on whatever days the new and full moons fall this year, they will fall on the same days of the months, 19 years hence.—Therefore as Easter day falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon succeeding the 21st of March, this cycle assists us in calculating beforehand the time of that festival.

Dionysian Period.

This arises from the cycles of the sun and moon multiplied into one another, forming a period of 532 years. After this period, the new and full moons return to the same days of the month, and the days of the month to the same days of the week; of course, the dominical letters and moveable feasts return again in the same order. Hence this cycle is called the great *Paschal cycle*.

The Cycle of Indiction is one arbitrary period of 15 years, in use among the Romans.

The great Julian Period

is a period of 7980 years formed by a multiplication of the cycle of the sun, the cycle of the moon, and the Roman indiction. This period began 764 years before the creation, and is not yet completed. Of course, it comprehends all cycles and periods, since the beginning of time. As there is but one year in the whole period that has the same number for the three cycles of which it is formed, had historians noted the cycles of each year, there could have been no dispute among chronologists, as to the time of any event.

The Epoch.

The time measured by 12 revolutions of the moon from the sun to the sun again is called the *Lunar year*; and is 10 days, 21 hours and 21 seconds shorter than the solar year. This leads to a calculation of the moon's age, on the 1st of January, which is termed the *Epoch*.

A full account of the calculations

which these cycles involve is to be met with in almost all books of astronomy.

January 1, 1816.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON LUNATIC ASYLUMS.

ST. LUKE's hospital for the insane, which is situated a little without this city, is the noblest establishment of the kind in Great Britain. It has been most liberally endowed by private contributions, and certainly the internal economy does ample justice to its humane benefactors. In visiting St. Luke's, which at present contains 300 Lunatics, a stranger cannot avoid feeling a degree of surprise mixed with satisfaction at the order and regularity of the house. Instead of the wild and clamorous ravings, which generally assail the ears, from a few Lunatics confined in country work-houses or prisons, I have been at this hospital, and heard not a single word that bespoke a disordered mind. I will therefore endeavour to give some particulars of this admirable management; and afterwards we shall be more prepared to notice and compare the peculiarities of other Lunatic Asylums, public or private, which I have visited. From such a comparison, it is presumed, some little interest will be excited, and perhaps a ray of light afforded to those, who are gifted with genius, capable of combining the particular experience of others, towards the promotion of farther usefulness.

The building is long and narrow, 493 feet by 30 in the centre, with broader wings of 66 feet, projecting from front and rear—a construction well adapted for the formation of galleries.* The centre of the house is intended for the master's accommodation, for offices, &c. Lofty iron gates, reaching to the ceiling, defend this part, on each side from the galleries. There are seven of these, each of which contains 32 single rooms, ten feet six inches, by eight feet—two rooms with four beds in each, 18 feet 4 inches, by 9 feet 9 inches: a sitting

* There are four floors including the basement.

room 28 feet by 13 feet—a smaller sitting room for refractory patients, 10 feet 6 inches, by 8 feet—and a servant's room, about 17 feet square.* The length of the longest gallery is 120 feet, the breadth 15 feet in all. The cells are opposite each other, for the length of 30 feet, and they open into the galleries. Each cell is 13 feet 3 inches high, arched, boarded and wainscoted—a window opening outward to each, of a semicircular form, 8 or 9 feet from the floor—and a large aperture over the door, with inside wire lattice to the iron bars to prevent accidents, and no shutter over the door. The bed is opposite to the door, under the window, which opens outward. The partition and outer walls form the head and one side of the box. Two upright pieces of very thick wood, about 14 inches high, are fastened together, for the other side and foot, to complete the rectangle, which is firmly fixed in its place. The dimensions of this box are 6 feet by 3 feet. Upon the floor, within this strong box, lies a false bottom, rising at the head of the bed, several inches higher than at the foot, and descending with a concave declivity, as much as possible to confine the Lunatic to the middle of the bed. In every one of these false bottoms, at the foot of the bed, a groove is made, underneath, which opens by a square aperture in the side of the box, opposite to the door, and runs across as far as the outer wall, to admit a trough for the purpose of receiving the moisture, through small holes, in the foot of the false bottom, opening downward into the trough. It is to be understood that the trough is only necessary for those who are denominated the wet patients, who unconsciously, or through indolence, refuse to second the calls of nature. In some of the boxes a ring is fixed at each side, and at the foot, to which strong leather straps are attached, in order to restrain the unruly, by securing the arms, between the shoulder and elbow, and the feet, round the ankles.

* Vide report from Select Committee of the House of Commons.

For the wet patients, it will be obvious to every one, that straw is the fittest article for bedding, because it can so easily be changed, and readily admits any moisture to pass through. The number of such patients is however very small in comparison of the rest, who sleep also upon straw; but they have good blankets underneath the body.

It has been already observed that in each gallery there are two rooms with four beds in each for convalescents. These are common bedsteads, raised from the floor, in the usual way, with good feather beds large enough to hold a single person. They are without tester or curtains. The shorter gallery in the wing of the building, which forms an angle with the longer one, without any partition between them, is occupied by the more unruly and wet patients. There is a long form fixed against the wall in this part of the house, near the window which gives light to the gallery; and iron rings may be observed at certain distances on the wall, for the purpose of giving attachment to leather straps or iron locks for the arms, that the furious Lunatic may be confined during the day, in a sitting posture. Forms are also placed round the smaller sitting room, intended as a day room for this description of patients, with similar means of coercion; and here and there a short chain is fixed in the floor, immediately below the rings, which are above the form, to confine the legs, when it may be necessary.

So that you may see perhaps three or four in each gallery to whose different degrees of fury the adequate force is applied, from the simple strait waistcoat, and single strap to manacles and fetters. I may here observe, though it is rather out of place, that a degree of restraint beyond the necessary force, is exceedingly hurtful and irritating to their feelings. They are often very sensible of the necessity for coercion; and a fear (arising from feelings of honour, I know not whether I should say peculiar to the insane) lest they should suffer the indignity of being classed with the most violent of their com-

panions, whose follies they are ready enough to observe and criticise, unconscious frequently of their own, will be very likely to prevent any alarming extravagance in their behaviour. But, as they appear sensible of this necessity, provided their exertions be met even by the *appearance* of superior force on the part of their keepers, little or no resistance is made to the usual mode of coercion.

The privies or vaults are at the end of the lower galleries, water runs below, and they are generally kept clean above. To defend from accidents, iron bars run across, a few feet below the seat, and the internal part is lined with lead—a good contrivance to prevent the smell from being retained, as well as to prevent the bad effects of moisture in such a building. The iron grating turns on a pivot, and, two or three times a week, it is turned round to precipitate the adhering seculent matter into the water below.

In each of the sitting rooms, which are also used as dining rooms, there is a fire place, with the defence of an iron grating of strong bars two or three inches apart, which keeps them from approaching near enough the fire to do any mischief. The grating is more than six feet high, and at the top projects towards the wall over the chimney piece. By means of a small gate in the front which is kept locked, the fire is occasionally supplied with fuel, &c. It is found necessary to have this grated defence, moved to the distance of some feet from the fire, as the Lunatics have various schemes to thrust in substances to the grate, for amusement or mischief, by which means the house might be in danger of being burnt. They will sometimes tear off a long slip of wood from the form or wainscot, and thus they contrive to toast their bread, which appears to be a favourite occupation.

The patients are obliged to rise with the utmost regularity, in summer at seven, in winter at eight o'clock in the morning, all except the very worst who are unfit to be moved; at eight in the evening they

go to bed. At regular hours also they get their meals of breakfast, dinner and supper. Some, who are allowed a little money by their friends, indulge in the luxury of tea.

It is well known that indolence strongly characterises the Lunatic. Therefore punctuality in every thing is of the most serious importance; and the habits of regularity which they are thus taught to acquire cannot but contribute materially to their recovery. When the bell rings, they are few who do not obey the call; for they know, that, if some little indulgence was granted them before, in consequence of a more governed behaviour, one single act of disobedience may subject them to solitary confinement, to the indignity of a public exposure to their companions, or to the retraction of that indulgence. Thus has the providence of God, in this humbled state of the human faculties, not only left behind those feelings which power, fully operate towards the self importance and happiness of the insane, for they are in fancy emperors and prophets—but has likewise exalted them to a higher degree of sensibility, so that a foundation is, as it were, laid for recovery upon the refinement of those feelings, which under a wise management must necessarily tend to awaken some degree of reason.

Their meals are provided in the day rooms of each gallery, from the general kitchen. The patients of one gallery feed together, except those who cannot be moved. In general they conduct themselves with the greatest order and propriety at meals. They eat out of wooden bowls, or of pewter plates. No knives or forks are allowed under any pretence whatever. It is even dangerous to permit them the use of tin vessels. The master of St. Luke's showed me a very sharp instrument, in the shape of a knife, which, for the purpose of destroying himself, a Lunatic had formed out of a tin vessel, when such were in use some time ago. He had actually made the attempt with it, and in a shocking manner

had wounded his throat, but not mortally. On which account they are made to use their fingers.

For breakfast they have water gruel, with bread, butter and salt. Four days in the week they have meat to dinner, mutton, beef or veal, and sometimes pork, with the best table beer. Broth on the other days. For supper they are provided with bread and cheese, or bread and butter with beer, and a large allowance on the days when their dinner consists of broth. When they refuse to eat, which they sometimes do, and then the breath acquires a high degree of fetor, the mouth is kept open by the ring of a key, while some nourishing liquid is poured into the throat. If it should be rejected, the *spouting boat* is used. This is an instrument like a common silver butter boat, with a long spout to it. The spout is introduced into the mouth, and the nostrils are cautiously held, in such a manner that the Lunatic is forced to swallow. I am at a loss to know why a late writer should have given this instrument the name of a *destructive devilish engine*.* It certainly may be abused, but in judicious hands may be of most essential use.

After breakfast each day they associate together in the day rooms, and in winter are very fond of crowding about the fire—or, some choose to remain in their cells, whilst others walk backwards and forwards in the galleries. There is a communication by a stone staircase between all the floors, which are four in number, including the basement, on each side of the house, to permit ready access for the patients to the vaults—but iron gates, as before observed, prevent all communication whatever between the sexes, as they are confined in opposite ends of the hospital.

When they have left their cells in the morning, the shutter is opened from the semicircular grated window above the bed. The bed is made, and the door is left open to produce a thorough circulation of air. The convalescent patients lend so much

assistance in these necessary off as materially to diminish the labors of the keeper. I shall have to mention the proper employment of the convalescents hereafter. There is one keeper appointed to superintend each gallery with the care of about 40 patients. Men-keepers for the males, and women-keepers for the females. The keepers are obliged to use the utmost care in every thing they do; and are to exercise a watchful attention. I once saw great consternation in the hospital, when one of the keepers had accidentally laid down his head, but it was soon missing. Some of the Lunatics had spied it, and had treacherously secreted it. The strict search was made. But threats and intreaties were alike effectual to procure its restoration, and before evening they were obliged to change all the locks on that side of the house, otherwise the hospital might have been discharged of its inmates before morning. The cunning is wonderful, and then suspicion must never be asleep, when the design appears most innocent.

In summer, when the weather is fine, they are allowed to amuse themselves in the open air, in yards or airing grounds well secured by high walls. There is a separate yard for the male and female patients.

Every saturday the patients are well combed and cleaned; an operation which, however unwillingly, they must submit to. On Sunday it is common for some of them to go to the rest, and I have watched with great satisfaction, how easily they have crowded about their chaplain, and listened to different parts of the liturgy. Howard observed at St. Luke's that it wanted a change, and I cannot but think that every form of worship would be of use to many of the Lunatics.

On other days of the week, they may be seen knitting, others sewing, mending stockings, &c. It is difficult to find proper employment for the men, than for the women, and, certainly, when Lunatics are competent to it, some kind of employment always to be provided. I have seen baths for the use of the patients. I omit any consideration of the

* See *Madness* on Lunacy.

fairs of this hospital as far as they relate to its governors, committees, &c. My object is only with the treatment of the insane. In my next communication I hope to make some comparison between this hospital and some others upon the different heads which I have already noticed.

London.

THOS. HANCOCK.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

A respectable linen draper of this town, handed to us the annexed report, which he lately found among some old papers. It is to be regretted that no further procedure was had on the business at that time. Now, when from the high price of linens there is a danger of the manufacture being nearly lost to this country, we have every inducement by the abridgement of labour and by improved machinery to seek to bring the article to market on lower terms. The introduction of new and improved machinery in its various branches, has greatly facilitated the progress of the cotton manufacture, while the machinery employed in the linen trade has been nearly stationary. Under these circumstances we strongly recommend to the linen drapers of the North of Ireland, to enter into a subscription to remunerate the proprietor of the discovery, that the invention may be thrown open to the public. By such a procedure we think the linen trade of Ireland would be most materially benefited in the present crisis.

Report on the Petition of Thomas McCabe and William Pearse. Reported to the Irish House of Commons, 14th February, 1791, by the Right Hon. John O'Neil.

MR. SPEAKE,

Your committee appointed to examine the matter of the petition of Thomas McCabe and William Pearse, having met according to order, and examined several witnesses relative to the subject-matter of the said petition, directed me to report as follows:

Mr. John Kelsey, an inspector of lreus in the county of Antrim, informed your committee, that in December last, Mr. McCabe called on him to look at two webs in a new con-

structed loom; that he examined the cloth, found the fabric good and well executed; that he afterwards saw a man weaving in it through a small opening in a door, and on examining the linen he wove, it appeared to him as good as that he first examined; that he conceives the weaving was more expeditiously performed by this than by a common loom, in as much as there were two webs weaving at the same time, and the operation of each of those was faster than that of one in the common mode; that the selvages of those webs were very well executed, and a good selvage is generally the test of good cloth; that the weaver appeared to him to weave with less labour than in the common mode, as he sat in an erect posture; the quality of the linen he saw wove was about that of a sixteen hundred. Says that he apprehends the use of this machine would be an improvement to the linen manufacture.

Mr. Pearse, one of the petitioners, and the person whom Mr. Kelsey saw weaving, says, that he is not by profession a weaver; that he wove calico, linen and cheque in this loom; that he believes he worked twenty-three yards of a calico in a day in it; that he understands eight yards of calico is a fair day's work, and two yards and a half of linen; that he is convinced he could on this loom work double the quantity of linen that could be wove in a common loom, and that an experienced weaver could certainly weave much faster than he could.

Your committee then called upon Mr. Thomas Russel, who informed them that he saw the piece of linen which Pearse wove, and compared it with a pattern piece of Mr. Sinclair's of Belfast, and the selvage of Pearse's was by much the best; he also said that he had received a letter from Mr. Digges, stating that six of the principal linen-draper of the neighbourhood of Belfast had examined a piece of linen of Pearse's weaving, and compared it with one of Mr. Sinclair's, and they were of opinion Pearse's was equal in quality, if not superior, to any they ever had seen.

They then called upon Mr. John Russel, who has been for many years

a very extensive dealer in linen; he said that he saw the linen in this new loom; that the quality of it, particularly the selvage, which he closely examined, appeared to him to be very good; he observed the two webs in the loom at the same time, and is convinced that linen could be wove much faster by it than by a common loom; says that this loom was in a loft, which is too dry a place to work a loom with advantage, and that he is of opinion it bids fair to be of great utility to the linen trade.

Mr. James Ferguson, another very extensive dealer in linens, informed them that he saw this loom, and that it appeared to him to be simple and plain in the construction; the two webs were in it, and beamed on the same beam, and it appeared to him to be an invention of great and general advantage; he observed that he never saw a loom but this in a loft, and till he saw it he thought it was not practicable to work one in such a situation, and that it was certainly wrought there to great disadvantage.

Both these gentlemen were of opinion that the universal use of this loom would work up all the yarn at present spun in this country, a vast quantity of which is now exported, and that their linens would rate much lower, which would enable them to contend with other markets much better than they can at present.

Your committee then called upon the Rev. Dr. Young, a Senior Fellow of Trinity College, and Professor of Natural Philosophy, who said that he has examined the mechanical principles of this loom, and that it is evidently capable of working two webs at the same time; that the operation in weaving each web is more simple than in the common loom, and consequently more than double the quantity of linen can be wrought in the same time, and with less fatigue to the weaver; that the selvage must, from the nature of the machinery, be more exact than that of webs wove in the common loom; that the force with which the web is shot can be adapted to the nature of the thread in the most simple manner; that the new part of the machinery is extremely simple and not subject to go out of

repair, and from the nature of it must cost little; and from inspection it is evident the expense of this loom must be less than the expense of two common looms; and on the whole he is of opinion, that the invention must be of great advantage to the linen manufacture.

The Rev. Mr. Clark who was also present at this examination, declared that he was exactly of the same opinion with Dr. Young as to the construction and utility of this loom:

And your Committee came to the following Resolutions:

Resolved, that it appears to this committee, that the petitioners have invented a loom applicable to the weaving of cotton and linen, by which two webs can be wove at the same time by one weaver, with more expedition, ease, and perfection, than one web is now wove in the common loom.

Resolved, that it appears to this committee, that this loom is simple in its construction, easily kept in order, and will not cost double the price of a common loom.

Resolved, that it appears to this committee, that this invention, when made public, must be highly advantageous to the linen and cotton manufactures of this kingdom.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

AN Institution, entitled the Mechanics' Association, has existed for many years back in all the principal manufacturing towns in Scotland.

1. A voluntary subscription of any sum the subscribers may think proper, is funded.

2. A commissioner is appointed to purchase groceries, and sundry other articles for the use of the association, and to sell them at first cost, for which trouble, he is to have a competency, say 5 per cent.

3. The profits arising from the sales at market price to others, non-subscribers, are to be added to the fund for the use of the association.

Perhaps the above institution, deserves to be warmly recommended to mechanics in all the principal manufacturing towns in Ireland. If carried into effect,

it evidently would guard against the baneful effects of monopoly. The poor mechanic, who might occasionally want cash, would be taken less advantage of; and that internal business of *pawn broking*, would likely commit less ravages on the lower orders of the people.

The foregoing plan was sometime ago forwarded anonymously to a person in Lisburn. The scheme appears to be useful, but it requires further explanation. If the writer, or any other person, conversant with the practices of Scotland, would give a more full account, it would be acceptable. Information is particularly solicited, whether selling on trust to the members, forms a part of the plan, whether credit is given generally to their members, or only to the amount of the individual's subscription.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

DESCRIPTION OF THE BARONY OF UPPER FEWS, COUNTY OF ARMAGH.

THE barony of Upper Fews, is the most southern barony in the county of Arinagh; in it are comprehended the parish of Newtownhamilton, and part of the parishes of Arinagh and Cregan, the remainder of the latter (called the five towns) being in the county of Louth. It is bounded on the east, by the barony of Upper Orier, on the west, by the barony of Turenny, and the river which divides the counties of Arinagh and Monaghan; on the north, by the baronies of Arinagh and Lower Fews, and on the south, by the county of Louth, and is about 13 miles long from north to south, the breadth is irregular, and is in general from 4 to 6 miles.

Towards the northern and southern extremity of this barony the face of the country is in general uneven, ascending and descending into gentle hills and dale; these hills grow more elevated as they approach the centre, where a chain of high, rude, and uncultivated hills or mountains, mostly covered with heath and coarse grass, crosses the same, near Newtownhamilton; these begin in the county of Monaghan, and after they cross

the barony in an eastern direction into upper Orier, gradually grow more rocky and uncultivated (some spots at their bottoms excepted) and branch out into mountains of different magnitudes, the principal branch of which continues on to Slieu Gellen, the principal hiding place of the noted tory. Redmond O'Hanlon, and from thence to the Newry and Carrlingford mountains; these continue, with the exception of the lough of Carrlingford, intervening, to the Rostrevor and Killyman mountains, and terminate after forming a vast amphitheatre, when viewed from the south, at Slieu Donard* the most eastern, and highest of all the Mourne Mountains.

All these high hills or mountains both in this barony, and in the county of Monaghan, which were heretofore kept under stock, have been with few exceptions let within these few years back to tenants (part of them adventurers from the county of Down) who have built a great number of cabins on them; and though few of them have sufficient capital to make rapid improvements, yet nevertheless, in process of time, it is expected the face of these mountains will assume a new aspect, and the climate of the same be greatly improved, when there are proper ditches and drains made on them to carry off the spring and stagnant water, both of which are hostile to vegetation, and render the climate humid; indeed the most of these are capable of improvement, the substrata being of clay, which, when mixed with the moory strata on the top and limed, will make middling land.†

* I think your Correspondent from Ballymahinch, ought to have termed his "Tour to Mourne, a tour to Slieu Donard: as there are few countries I have yet travelled in, affords more subjects for the pen of a geographical or sentimental tourist (such as that of S.E.) than the half barony of Mourne, no part of which, with the exception of Slieu Donard, S.E. his tour entered, consequently does not describe.

† For an account of the mode of improving the different kinds of soils in this barony, see vol. 3, of this Magazine, page 178.

The soil of this barony is of different kinds, towards the north, where the same joins the barony of Armagh, it is of the calcareous kind, and produces good crops of barley, oats, potatoes, flax, &c.; in the centre, it is of the argillaceous and moory kinds, and when duly manured produces in some parts good crops of flax, but the quality of the oats and potatoes, especially in the mountains, are generally not so good; in the south the soil is in general lighter, lying in many places on a stratum of rock or gravel at various depths, it is also of a warmer nature, and produces crops of a superior quality, and there are also spots of heavy clay soils almost in every field, which is mostly appropriated to the culture of flax, the year after it has been set with potatoes. The potatoe-oats has been introduced some years back, and is found to answer the soil well, and there is always a ready market for it in Armagh, Newry, and Dundalk. There have been no quarries of lime-stone yet discovered in this barony, one only excepted, which was discovered by Mr. Donald Steward, the self taught travelling mineralogist of the Dublin Society, who visited this country occasionally, but which has not turned out well. The inhabitants of the north of this barony, having to procure this valuable fossil from the vicinity of Armagh, whilst those in the south procure theirs from Castleroach, in the county of Louth, and from near Carrickmacross in the county of Monaghan.

The principal inconvenience attending the north of this barony is the want of fuel, not only its inhabitants, but the inhabitants of the city of Armagh and its neighbourhood, have to procure their turf from the mountains of Blackbank and Grouse-lodge,* a distance of from 6 to 8 miles south of said city. The roads from these mountains are almost con-

stantly filled with cars going for, and returning with turf, which causes the roads to be deep in winter, and full of dust in summer. The part south of these mountains however labour under no such inconvenience, there being plenty of turf bog interspersed in the vallies through the same; so that few people have to send more than half a mile, and many only a few perches to procure their fuel.

The mountains in the centre of the barony being the most elevated of any in the county, the waters of course divide at their tops, one part running in rivulets towards the north, the principal part of the same falling into the Callan water, thence to the Black-water, until the same empties itself into Lough Neagh; the other part runs southwardly in a meandering course through a level country, dividing the upper part of the barony nearly into two equal parts, and after receiving different smaller streams in its progress (particularly one from the eastern side of the barony which crosses the road from Dublin to Armagh, at Silverbridge) it discharges itself, after it passes along the eastern side of the town of Dundalk, into the bay of that name.

The rivers of this barony are very subject to sudden floods, especially near their sources, the water being impeded by the course of the river's being so level, and in some places being too narrow, so that the water rises in many places ten or twelve feet and overflows the holms to a considerable extent in pairs; the whole lands near the river, having the appearance of a great lake at these times. These floods do great damage when they happen in any time but the winter season, as the water is so muddy and leaves so much sand and dirt on both grass and corn that they make very bad fodder for cattle, but it tends at the same time to fertilize the soil, so that there is no part in the barony where natural grass grows more luxuriant without manure, nor where oats and potatoes require less. Some of these rivers are embanked in several places and floodgates placed on the streams of water running into the same to keep the river in its bed. But when the

* This mountain derives its name from a house two stories high, formerly built by Adam Noble, esq. who deserted the same, on account of its damp situation, the house and some lands adjoining have been let, and one story has been pulled down and the house roofed anew.

floods are high, the embankments often give way, as the bed of the river is always changing from side to side, and rats make holes in the same, both of which tend to make the ramparts weak. The greatest flood ever remembered to be in these rivers, was in the autumn of 1805 when a vast quantity of oats and hay were swept away by the flood; some of the oats however were saved although greatly damaged, being cast out on dry land, by the wind and waves; almost the whole of the bridges on these rivers were thrown down, or otherwise damaged, two or three only excepted.

There are a great number of lakes or loughs (as they are called) in the south of this barony, all well stored with trout and eels; some of the former have been caught weighing five or six pounds; pike are also caught in some of them, perches are common to the most of them, and in a few there are roaches; numbers of trouts and eels come down the streams from these lakes into the rivers, where they are easily distinguished when caught, being of a darker colour, and yellower in the belly than those fish that breed in rivers. The flesh of the trout is also redder, and reckoned better flavoured; this is partly owing to the nature of the bottom of these lakes, most of them being situated in turf bogs; the exhalations however of those lakes and bogs are not prejudicial to health, like the putrid exhalations of stagnant pools and marshes in other countries, but are of an antiseptic and astringent quality, owing to the water being impregnated with great quantities of timber of different kinds, particularly oak which is found in abundance on the borders of these lakes, and indeed the bogs themselves, besides what timber they contain underneath their surfaces, are mostly composed of heath and other vegetables. The principal of these lakes is called Loughross, in the midst of which is a considerable island, on which great quantities of herons or cranes build their nests on stunted low bushes, much like that of a magpie, and then bring out their young; there is also another lake

called Mullaghduff, which has a small island, on which thousands of sea-gulls or seamews of the black headed kind, build their nests: they keep up a constant screech both night and day during the breeding season; in the summer and winter season the whole of them seldom go away to the sea for any length of time, some of them mostly remaining.

Considerable numbers of Danish raths commonly called forths, are to be found in this barony, particularly in the southern part, the most of those are circular, some are enclosed by one, others by two, and a few have three rings of fosses or mounds of earth thrown up to a considerable height, and the intervals particularly of those of the latter kinds are sunk to a considerable depth; there are others of those however quite straight thrown up in like manner; one of the latter description in the neighbourhood of Silverbridge extends across the country for a considerable distance in three great ramparts, the two intervals being about thirty feet each, are sunk to a great depth: on the most of these detached white thorn bushes are growing which the common people are very much afraid to cut down or disturb; as they think these places are the abode of fairies, &c. who in case of their so doing would be revenged on them; and when any cattle die, or any accident befalls them, it is usually ascribed to the agency of those tiny sprites.

In a bog contiguous to one of these raths of the former description, about a mile north of Regan, has been found a great quantity of black oak timber, some of it of an excellent quality, and placed in the following curious manner, two long straight beams (some of them 30 feet and upwards) are lying horizontally within a few inches of each other; in each of these are three rude mortices, one at each end, and one at the centre, pieces of wood three or four feet long, and tapering towards the one end like sta'actiles are driven down into the ground through those mortices,* in the interval between

* A heavy piece of timber shaped much like a hand beetle has been found,

the beams beforementioned, a row of stakes from three to six feet long, according to the depth, are placed perpendicularly close to each other, whose ends rest on the clay underneath, but the upper end of almost the whole of them, bear evident marks of being burned: that part of them however whose tops are higher than the lying beams (and likely the whole of them were that high before they were burned) have each a mortice in them, through which a short piece of timber runs transversely, whose ends rest on the beams beforementioned: when one of the stakes happens to be crooked, a piece is driven in between the adjoining stakes to fill up the cavity. Several short rows have been found in this bog, but the turf has been cut off one in particular, which has extended upwards of twenty perches in a straight line; the end of the horizontal beams being placed close to each other, this line does not cross the bog from hill to hill, but runs in an oblique and nearly a western direction down the bog from the rath beforementioned; more of this curiosity is stripping every year as the bog is cut over;† but the perpendicular stakes are not so long, as the bog is getting shallower the nearer it is cut to the edge. What the use of this curiosity was I do not pretend to be a good enough antiquary to ascertain; but would be obliged to any of your intelligent correspondents for their opinion on this subject. I.D.

To be Continued.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON FAIRIES.

"You've heard of such spirits."

HAVING, in a former Essay taken a short survey of witchcraft, I now proceed to make a few observations on a link of the same chain,

supposed to be used for the purpose of driving those pieces of timber and the stakes.

† A pavement of stones, near a perch square has been found a considerable time ago with some marks of ashes upon the same; and also a pair of Querns which were formerly made use of for grinding corn.

namely the fairies. An eminent author has defined fairies to be, "a kind of fabled beings supposed to appear in a diminutive human form, and to dance in the meadows, and reward cleanliness in houses." This description does not appear to be a general one, and perhaps related only to English fairies, the author belonging to that country; for those of this country, are said to have had several peculiar qualities beside the before mentioned, viz. an insatiable desire for stealing young children, prior to christening, or even the mother, while she lay in child-bed; they are also represented as being very vindictive, often destroying the cattle of such persons as disturbed in any manner the ground on which they hold their gambols. Their usual places of resort are stated to have been the little green mounts, Danish raths, or near some large thorn; the persons who disturbed any of those places, we are told, were sure to have their cattle all elf-shot*, or perhaps struck themselves with some dreadful malady; those places are still held sacred, by most people, for fear of some terrible visitation, and is commonly distinguished by the name of "gentle ground." They did not however always come in a hostile manner, for I am informed they sometimes kept up a friendly intercourse with mankind, or rather with woman-kind, for I understand it was mostly with them they corresponded; but wo, wo, we are told, ever betell the person, or persons, who refused them whatsoever they wanted, which they were sure to repay many fold. Legends also inform us that green was the universal colour of their dress in this country, but this seems to have been only national, as Shakspeare mentions black, gray, white, and green fairies. We are also told

* Cattle are usually said to be elf-shot that die suddenly, occasioned, it is said, by the fairies shooting them with sharp flint stones. I have been shown some of those stones, they are the heads of the ancient Irish arrows, bely the use of iron here; and wonderful to relate are in high repute as an effectual preservative against fairies, &c when hung in a cow house, or boiled in the drink of cattle.

of a gigantic species called Browney, and that if one was well fed, he would work hard all night in the barn, threshing as much as two common persons. I have even been informed of some being found dead in the barns through excessive labour! Browney seems to have been of Scottish descent, and to have been imported along with the Scottish colonists, as I find no mention of such a spirit amongst the antient Irish, whose superstition is chiefly confined to the Beanshee. In England he is known by the name of Puck, or Robin Goodfellow, and seems to be the same as Milton's Lubber Fiend—

"Whose shadowy flail hath thrash'd the corn

That ten day-labourers could not end,
Then lies him down the lubber fiend,
And stretch'd along the chimney's length,
Basks at the fire his hairy strength."

That these were still considered fabled beings, by the learned, I have no manner of doubt, but at what period they are said to have first appeared amongst mankind is rather uncertain; probably about the same time as Satyrs, Harpies, and other fabulous beings, mostly created by the Poets, and introduced into their works of fancy. It seems therefore somewhat probable that credulous old women, &c. hearing of such things in the works of the learned, concluded they were real, and passed those wild opinions on infancy, for as the poet has said,

"A careful nurse, and priest, is all we need
To learn opinions and our country's creed."

These opinions, which it may be said they sucked in with their milk, was no doubt heightened by the small books and pamphlets, put into their hands at an early period, such as the famous history of Tom Thumb, Fairy Tales, Tales of the Fairies, &c. and many others of equal celebrity: The clergy also seemed to have sanctioned such beliefs, as is still evident from certain clergy giving preservatives against faeries, &c. I shall conclude these remarks by a quotation from Roscommon, who says:

"—Whatsoever contradicts my sense,
"I hate—and never can believe."

C. Fergus.

S.M.S.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

ON CLASSICAL STUDIES.

GENTLEMEN,

ALLOW me to announce my address to you by the words, "Ne quid nimis." In the outset of your publication you very fairly stated your intentions, and to do you justice, you have in general adhered to them with consistency: but in one thing you now appear under a defect necessarily arising from your declaration. The part of your prospectus relative to essays on classical subjects I particularly allude to; in that you profess a wish to be furnished with such essays, while the language of your invitation contains a repellent. The truth of my construction appears from the fact, that after the first few numbers of your miscellany, such subjects disappeared altogether from its pages. Allow me to say, that this was rather injudicious; persons who could discuss a classical subject may reasonably be considered as more probably qualified to contribute to your work than others, and, all things else being equal, deserved at least equal encouragement. We may consider too, that equal encouragement to *them* would not be exclusion to others; and that on the contrary, it would operate powerfully in exciting in this country a spirit of classical study, a particular too little attended to. There is an idea too prevalent here, and you have given it some sanction, that the knowledge of Latin and Greek is useless; and that the time expended in the acquisition of them is so much time thrown away. To this I would reply, that the observation implies an insufficiency in the objector to decide, as no one who has made a proficiency in the study, could possibly maintain the opinion. And how is the objection generally supported? By selecting some literary man, and laughing at his inexpertness in lotting up pounds, shillings, and pence. Supposing him in a situation, for which his education has never qualified him, and then imputing his deficiency to his education. Suppose the objector for once set down to a Greek, or

Latin author: it would be absurd of course to expect from him any critical observations on the author, would it therefore be just to ridicule him? If a literary man were fool enough to do so, and I do not know one, who would—he might gently hint, that nothing can be learned now by inspiration. Yet the person, so clear-sighted as to see the absurdity of ridiculing a man for ignorance in what he could not know, will himself be guilty of the same absurdity—say, more, will ground on that ignorance an argument to prove the uselessness of literature. A dispassionate investigation of the claims on both sides would convince reasonable men, that each is useful in their sphere. Talent and genius have been in my mind the subjects of much mistaken dispute. All covet the possession or the fame of them: all are ambitious to exhibit them in themselves; yet it is unaccountable, how few have been sensible of their true nature, and of the almost *universality* of one of them at least. Talent and genius in their ordinary acceptance excite in the minds of most the notion of literary qualifications only; this can only be accounted for from the pre-eminence of literary men, who, writing under their natural prepossession in favour of their own pursuits, have given that bias to the ideas of society. Hence we speak of men as *men of talent*, who exhibit rapid powers of conception and expression on literary subjects, and we tacitly consider those as *men of no talent*, who are deficient herein. Genius is so rare a gift that we may here confine ourselves to the consideration of talent alone. If our minds were not pre-occupied with a certain notion of talent, we might discover it, where we now little expect it. However genius and talent are usually confounded, they are completely and essentially distinct. Genius is that mental power, which appears in invention—talent, in comprehending and applying the inventions of others. Genius will burst through every difficulty—talent requires opportunity and nurture. Genius is self-instructed—talent will be the diligent disciple.

Wherever then we see a capacity of profiting by the inventions and instructions of others, there, we may conclude, is talent to be found, and consequently when a man has succeeded in any pursuit in life by a regular persevering course of proper means, we may justly attribute talent to him. He may not have been able in his youthful days to proceed rapidly in the acquirement of classical knowledge, for example: he seems to have no predilection for reading, or for any of the fine arts: but he is called to business, and there his concerns prosper: his arrangements are clear and methodical: expediteness appears in all his dealings. Honour, integrity and punctuality shine in all his conduct; those, who have dealt with him, are desirous of dealing with him again: the barren wild starts into a populous and plentiful village; his active penetrating mind searches into, and arranges the most minute concerns of his extensive establishment—and shall it be said, such a man has no talent?—the assertion would be absurd. He has talent, though not a *literary* talent.

To give to all their due is a maxim of justice; and yet it is not the rule of our judgment, so frequently as it should be. Fascinated by the glare of literary or political eminence, we have averted our eyes from beholding that unbustling talent, equally deserving of eminence, which is exerted in contributing to the welfare of society. The farmer, the merchant, the tradesman, the artizan, may, each in his way, manifest his talent, and is therefore equally deserving of the praise due to it. From this deduction we may see the absurdity of the common place abuse, that has from time immemorial been heaped on the industrious part of the community, and learn to forgive the *crime* of becoming wealthy through any other means than that of literary exertion.

Society abounds in materials for explosion; and it is the duty of every one to make some effort at rendering them inactive, or removing them altogether: this attempt to bring the studious part of mankind to a just opinion of their busy brethren, is from a sense of this

duty; in obedience to which I shall further proceed to impress on the latter a sense of what is due from them to the former.

This part of my task is by no means easy. Men of reading and reflecting minds may be brought to comprehend the merits of a subject perfectly new to them: but where the mind has been prepossessed with the idea, that what is in a *tangible* shape is alone valuable, and that all the golden sounds of Apollo's lyre are nothing compared with the guinea's chink, topics urged from subjects, with which they are unacquainted, can scarcely find admittance. The advocate for the importance of literary studies has to contend against prejudice with those very means, which are the objects of prejudice, and thus is he under a two-fold disadvantage. Men of business ridicule, and as they think, justly, the study of words; they cannot comprehend the use of poring over books, merely with a view to the becoming acquainted with a language, the acquisition of which cannot be turned into money—but we need not state any more of the objections made on such occasions; they are generally known. If disinterestedness be worthy of respect, we may surely claim respect for the scholar, the man, who, more frequently than any other in society, devotes himself to his pursuit for its own sake, and supported by the satisfaction he finds in it, bears the cheerless poverty, so frequently accompanying that pursuit, with contentedness of mind. A pursuit, which produces so desirable an effect, must be a valuable and laudable one, and this effect would of itself be sufficient to justify an earnest recommendation of it. But this is the smallest part of its great merit and importance. Classical literature, that part of it most undervalued, has an influence more extensive, than most people are aware of: it even influences those, who rail against it. They rail, in *good set terms*, against that, which hath taught them these terms. If they find a pleasure in any reading, even that, which is termed light reading; that pleasure, much or

little, originates in the preparation of their minds through education, and will always be proportioned to the extent to which that education has been carried.

The foundation of all grammatical knowledge has been laid by men of classical attainments: the very terms of grammar are of classical origin, and classical allusions are now so interwoven in our literature, that without a little acquaintance with subjects of the kind, it is scarcely possible fully to enter into the spirit even of a newspaper essay.

The advantage of classical attainment then is great in opening to us a new capacity for enjoyment, in so far as it enables us to comprehend, and therefore relish the works of others. There is another, and a superior one, that of conferring an accurate method of reasoning. The powers of the mind, like those of the body, are strengthened by exercise; and a noble exercise for the mind is prepared in the acquisition of the rich languages of antiquity, rich not merely in variety of expression, and abundance of imagery. It is a circumstance worthy of remark, that, notwithstanding the gigantic strides made by the moderns in most of the branches of science, especially natural philosophy, they have added nothing to those things, in which the ancients shone; on the contrary, they have but borrowed from them. The orator, whether of the senate, bar, or pulpit is their pupil, and is admired, even by those, who cannot give the reason, in proportion as he has followed his masters.

In acquiring these languages, the mind is called to the exertion of its best powers of discrimination. While we are acquiring new ideas on important subjects, we are strengthening our reasoning faculties in investigating the construction of the language, and the grammatical connection of its parts, while the judgment is made correct, and the taste refined in exactly defining the terms we meet with, and marking the delicate shades of difference, whereby words apparently synonymous, are essentially distinguished. No language can be properly

acquired without expending labour on the acquisition of its grammar, and of the study of grammar it would be not too much to say, that it is a much more profitable exercise of the mind, than even the strenuously recommended one of mathematics.

The mathematics, as they are called, are allowedly a science of pure reasoning, and have been very profitably applied to the purposes of life. Their distinguishing characteristic is certainty and accuracy. The student in his course proceeds from step to step; he sees where he sets his foot, knows whether he is proceeding, and can at any time review his progress. The advocates of the science, will grant this to be a just eulogy on their favourite pursuit. But the evil consequences must not be concealed. Metaphysics, the science which teaches the moral duties of man, and investigates his powers and qualifications, proceeds on the ground of *high probability*. The degree of probability is abundantly sufficient to determine our conduct in this life, and fix our hopes beyond it, but it must be allowed to fall short of the force of mathematical demonstration. Hence to commence the cultivation of the mind with mathematical studies, or to confine the mind exclusively to them produces the injurious effect of fixing a distaste for all studies, which do not present equal certainty. The general rejection of revealed religion by eminent mathematicians is a striking proof of this; and so far from being surprized at it, we may rather be surprized, that the majority have not gone as far as some, and deny the being of a God. The being of a God there are few who can deny: yet the denial may be reasonably and consistently expected from him who declares, he will receive nothing as an object of faith, which is not capable of mathematical demonstration.

Metaphysics, therefore, as they cultivate the knowledge of man's most valuable and solemn duties, should have the precedency. It is a science by which the duties of man to God, to his fellow, and to himself are pointed out, and those, who have studied grammar with an en-

larged view, know how intimately it is connected with metaphysics. Grammar is in fact a branch of it, and without this enlarged view and study of it, our knowledge of it will always be imperfect and school-boy like.

Thus it appears that the study of grammar and the acquisition of language is an exercise in the philosophy of probability, a philosophy of all others the most useful to be cultivated by beings, whose daily and hourly concerns are regulated by probabilities. It appears also, that in enlarging our acquaintance with words, we enlarge our acquaintance with ideas also, and that we are cultivating that power of the mind, by the improvement of which we shall be best qualified to judge for ourselves through life.

These consequences must result from the proper study of any language, but in a much superior degree from the study of what are termed the *learned languages*. The ancients, the Greeks especially, have investigated the nature of the mind, and her powers, and affections. On this investigation they have founded their canons of criticism. Prose, poetry, rhetoric, grammar, have all been subjected to these rules; and our predecessors in literary pursuits have proved their wisdom in adopting them. They have now become so mingled with our thoughts and language, that without an intercourse with such subjects we cannot hope to have a satisfactory view even of our own literature, nor be able to reason cogently on our most important interests.

The classic languages of antiquity have furnished to us our scientific terms. Physic, law, divinity in their most extended sense are discussed and explained through means of them, and a superficial observation of our own language will serve to show, that it has been indebted to them for a great portion of its terms on other subjects also.

You will perhaps be inclined to think gentlemen, that I have said more than enough on this subject. If what I have said, gains no attention, I shall think so too. But the matter

appeared to me of considerable importance: I had observed the usual disregard of classical literature in this country increasing into studied contempt.

The topics used to effect it were plausible, and those that might be advanced to counteract it not quite so

obvious. If you approve of what I have here advanced, I hope you will signify that approbation, and so endeavour to remedy the injury already done, and I am sure the expression of your approbation will, and deservedly possess much weight with your readers.

ATTICUS.

THE NAMES OF THE SOVEREIGNS AND BURGESSES OF BELFAST SINCE
THE YEAR 1612.

Burgesses Names.	The time when made Burgesses.	The times and dates when made Sovereigns.
John Vesey		First Sovereign, 1613.
Sir Fulk Conway		
Thomas Hebbots, esq.		
Moses Hill, esq.		
Humphrey Norton, esq.		
William Lesley		
John Willoughby		
Carew Hart		1617.
John Ash		1646.
Daniel Boothe		Burgesses by Charter, 1615.
James Burr		
Walterhouse Crimble		In 1630, removed for 16 years absence.
John Burr, gentleman		1662.
The lord of the castle, and constable of the castle of Belfast, for the time being are burgesses.		
Edward Holmes, gent. left £40 to the poor		
George Theaker		1619.
Lewis Thompson		1631, 1634, removed for being 6 years out of the kingdom
Henry Le Squire		1635, 1636, 1639.
Robert Foster		1632, 1644, 1648.
Thomas Brainston		1633
Lewis Thompson		1634.
Gawn Boltley		Removed for absence
John Leathes, sen.		1638, 1635.
Thomas Harrington		1641, 1650. 1651.
John Washer		1637.
Thomas Theaker,		1643, 1654.
John Haddock		1640.
Richard Gately, in place of Gawn Boltby	Feb. 8, 1619.	
Thomas Bradley		
Thomas Stevenson, in place of John Willoughby	Feb. 8, 1640	1642.
John Davison, in place of Lewis Thompson	Decr. 4, 1642.	
John Mitchell, in place of Thomas Brainston.	Decr. 4, 1642.	

Burgesses Names.	The time when made Burgesses.	The times and dates when made Sovereigns.
William Leathes, in place of John Washer.	Decr. 4, 1642.	1643, 1657, 1658, 1659.
George Martin, in place of Henry Le Squire	Oct. 30, 1645.	1649.
Hugh Doak, in place of John Haddock	Oct. 30, 1645.	1647.
John Leathes, jun. in place of Thomas Stevenson	June 18, 1646.	
Thomas Warring	June 24, 1652.	1652, 1653, 1656, 1665, 1666 in that year died.
John Rigby, in place of Thomas Hamming	Sept. 17, 1653.	1661, first sovereign made justice of peace for the county of Antrim, which still continues to the sovereign for the time being
Francis Meek, in place of Richard Gately	June 13, 1657.	1660
George Macartney, in place of John Ash	Sept. 17, 1659.	1663, 1664, 1668, 1669, 1676, 1677, 1678, 1679, and 1680, justice of the peace for the county of Antrim.
William Warring in place	Sept. 17, 1660.	1670, 1671, justice of peace for the county of Antrim.
Thomas Walcot, in place of William Leathes	June 25, 1660.	1672.
Francis Thelford, in place of Thomas Warring	Dec. 1, 1665.	1681.
George Macartney in place of Francis Meek	Dec. 1, 1665.	1673, 1674, and 1701.
Hugh Eccles, in place of John Davis	Dec. 2, 1667.	1675.
Sir Hercules Langford, in place of John Rigby	April 24, 1669.	Justice of the peace for the county of Antrim.
Robert Leathes in place of Hugh Doak	Aug. 26, 1669.	1680, 1687, 1688, 1689, 1690, 1697, 1714. Resigned in 1717. 14th June 1690, King William landed at Carrickfergus, and that day came to Belfast; received with the greatest acclamations of joy, stayed at Belfast five days.—The sovereign and burgesses had the honour of kissing his Majesty's hand. 1692, resigned 1715. Justice of the peace for the county of Antrim.
James Macartney, in place of William Warring	Oct. 19, 1676.	
Henry Thelford, in place of John Leathes, sen.	June 14, 1677.	
Lewis Thompson, in place of Henry Thelford	July 25, 1678.	1682, 1696.
John Hamilton, in place of George Martin	July 25, 1678.	1683, 1684.
Edward Harrison, in place of Sir Her. Langford	Aug. 27, 1680.	1695, Justice of the peace for the county of Antrim.
Thomas Knox, in place of Gilbert Wye	Aug. 27, 1680.	1685. Resigned in 1697. Justice of the peace for the county of Antrim.
Sampson Theaker, in place of Hugh Eccles	June 24, 1681.	
John Tooley, in place of Edward Reynolds	April 6, 1682.	

178 *List of the Sovereigns and Burgesses of Belfast.* [March-

Burgesses Names.	the time when made Burgesses.	The times and dates when made Sovereigns.
William Crawford in place of John Hamilton	May 4, 1686.	1693, 1694. Removed for not being qualified according to the statute.— Member of parliament for Belfast.
William Lockard, in place of John Tooley	May 7, 1687.	1691.
James Butler, in place of John Walcott	Feb. 25, 1689.	
David Smyth, in place of Francis Thelford	May 26, 1690.	1699, 1700.
The Rt. Hon. Arthur, Earl of Donegall in place of Sampson Theaker	March 7, 1691.	1698. Resigned in 1697.
Arthur Macartney in place of George Macartney	June 1, 1691.	
John Chambers, in place of John Leathes	April 8, 1693.	1702 Removed for not being qualified according to the statute.
The hon. Charles Chichester, place of the Earl of Donagall, now lord of the castle of Belfast	Dec. 23, 1697.	
Edward Brice, in place of Thomas Knox	Dec. 23, 1697.	Member of parliament for Belfast; removed from his burgess for not being qualified.
The hon. John Chichester, in place of Wm. Lockart	Dec. 6, 1698.	1712. Member of Parliament for Belfast.
Richard Willoughby, in place of Patrick Duff	Constable Castle.	
David Butle, in place of Edward Harrison	Oct. 14, 1700.	in 1703 and 1704, surrendered the rod 29th July 1704, by a late act, disabling Dissenters to serve in public office.
Isaac Macartney, in place of hon. Charles Chichester	April 26, 1701.	Resigned in 1707.
George Macartney, place of George Macartney, major	Oct. 16, 1702.	Part of 1704, 5, 6, 7 and 8, Member of Parliament.
Neil McNeil, in place of James Buller	Feb. 6, 1702.	Removed for not qualifying.
Mich. Harrison, in place of David Smyth	Aug. 6, 1705.	
The hon. John Chichester, place of Arthur Macartney	Dec. 21, 1706.	Removed for being a minor.
John Hallbridge, place of Isaac Macartney	April 24, 1707.	
Nath. Byrt, place of Wm. Crawford, not qualified	Nov. 29, 1707.	1725; died in office.
Richard Wilcox, in place of Edward Brice, not qualified	Nov. 29, 1707.	
George Portes, place of David Butle, not qualified	Nov. 29, 1707.	

Burgesses Names.	The time when made Burgesses.	The times and dates when made Sovereigns.
Henry Ellis, place of Neil M'Neil, not qualified	Nov. 29, 1707.	1717, 1720, 1722; died in office.—From disputes between the family and burgesses, no sovereign for the remainder of this year, nor for 1723.
James Gurner, in place of the hon. John Chichester, a minor	Nov. 29, 1707.	1715, 1716.
Roger Haddock, in place of John Chambers not qualified	Feb. 17, 1707.	1710, 1711, 1712. Resigned 1713.
Nicholas Thelford, place of Lewis Thompson	Feb. 17, 1707.	
George Macartney, major, place of William Harrison	May 2, 1709.	1724, died in office; member of parliament; justice of peace for county Antrim.
Hans Hamilton, in place of Richard Wilson	Dec. 8, 1711.	1713, member of parliament, and justice of peace.
Thomas Banks	Dec. 8, 1711.	C. castle.
Robert Le Byrt	June 24, 1712.	C. castle.
Robert Le Byrt, in place of Roger Haddock	Dec. 28, 1713.	1721, 34, 35, 39, 40 and 43.
Thomas Heweston	May 27, 1718.	C. castle.
Edward Clements, place of judge Macartney	Aug. 16, 1715.	Justice of the peace for the county of Antrim.
James Macartney, place of Edward Clements		1725, 1726.
John Carpenter, in place of Robert Leathes	Sept. 13, 1717.	1718, 1719.
Hon. John Skelington, place of Henry Ellis	Nov. 12, 1723.	Member of parliament.
General Nich. Price, place of Nich. Thelford	Nov. 12, 1723.	
Charles M'Cartney, place of James Gurner	Nov. 12, 1723.	Justice of the peace, for the counties of Antrim and Down.
James Reed, place of George Portis	Nov. 12, 1723.	
John Clugson		Part of 1726, 27, 28, 32, and 33.
Hon. John Chichester, place of George M'Cartney, jun.	Aug. 11, 1724.	Member of parliament for Belfast.
Cromwell Price, place of John Halbridge	Feb. 16, 1724.	Member of parliament for Downpatrick, and justice of peace.
Ezekiel Davis Wilson, place of Nathan Byrt	Feb. 27, 1725.	Justice of the peace for the county of Antrim.
John Duff, place of James M'Cartney	Sept. 18, 1727.	1730, 1740, 1741, 1742, 1747, and part of 1753, died in office.
Thos. Banks, place of James Rea	Sept. 18, 1727.	1729, Justice of the peace for the counties of Down and Antrim.
Arthur Byrtt, place of James Hamilton	May 12, 1729.	1731, 44, 45, 46 and 47, 52, justice of the peace for the co. of Antrim.
Arthur Thelford, place of John Carpenter	May 20, 1729.	

Burgesses names.	The time when made Burgesses.	The times and dates when made Sovereigns.
Margelson Sanders, place of Arthur Thelford	May 17, 1733.	1736, 1737, 1738, 1748 and 1754.
William Montgomery of Rosemount, place of General Price	July 30, 1735.	Justice of the peace for the county of Down.
Valentine Jones of Lisburn, place of Ezekiel Davis Wilson	May 2, 1738.	Justice of the peace for the county of Antrim.
Davis Wilson, place of John Clugson	May 4, 1738.	Justice of the peace for the county of Antrim.
Hon. Arthur Skeffington, place of Hon. John Skeffington	Sept. 27, 1742.	Member of parliament.
William Macartney, place of Robert Byrri	Feb. 17, 1745.	Justice of the peace for the county of Down.
Stewart Banks, place of Thomas Banks	May 26, 1746.	1755, 1758 and 1762, justice of the peace for the county of Antrim.
George Macartney place of Hon. John Chichester	Sept. 22, 1746.	1749, 1750, 1751, 1756, and 1759.
Jos. Green, place of Hon. Arthur Skeffington	Nov. 6, 1747.	
Hon. Arthur Barry, place of John Duff	Oct. 31, 1753.	Member of parliament for Belfast.
John Gordon, place of Wm. Montgomery	June 6, 1755.	
Stephen Haven, place of Margetson Sanders	Sept. 6, 1757.	1760
James Hamilton, place of Jos. Green	Sept. 6, 1757.	1761
John Ludford, place of George Macartney, sen.	Dec. 8, 1757.	
Thos. Ludford, place of Charles Macartney	March 15, 1759.	
Hon. John Chichester, brother to Arthur Earl of Donegall, place of Davis Wilson	July 17, 1760.	
James Lewis, place of Val. Jones deceased	April 1, 1761.	

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON THE ENCOURAGEMENT DUE TO OBSCURE MERIT.

NOTHING I believe more clearly manifests the imperfection of human nature, than the neglect with which merit is treated, when it does not attract attention by the appendages of birth or fortune. The excellence of a peasant, and that of a peer, are almost as differently regarded,

as if it were a vice in the one, and a virtue in the other: and though mankind unanimously condemn such partiality, there is not an individual who has not at some time, and in some degree, been guilty of it. In religion, the sect that most strictly inculcates primitive simplicity, involuntarily allows precedence to the man in rich apparel; and in politics, the leader of a democratic faction would doubtless be obeyed the more

implicitly, that his ancestors inherited the titles his adherents despise.

Such were my reflections lately, on observing through a shop window in a neighbouring town, proposals for publishing by subscription, a volume of poetry by one *Andrew M'Kenzie*, which paper, thought it had been there a considerable time, did not contain one subscriber. Poor M'Kenzie, said I to myself, of thyself and thy productions I am altogether ignorant, but I dare venture to aver, that had *Rev.* preceded thy name, or *Esq.* been annexed to it, numbers would have here enrolled their names who know as little of thee as myself. Perhaps thou deservest encouragement through intrinsic worth; but if otherwise, the confidence thou seemest to place in the patronage of thy countrymen is in itself a secondary claim to it—and thou shalt not be disappointed. That thou mayest have fair play for popularity, thy countrymen will enable thee to bring thy works before the grand tribunal of the public; and then if thou art found to possess superior talents, thou shalt, like the rising light “shine more and more until the perfect day;” if they are below mediocrity, thou wilt sink like the shooting meteor, never to emit another transitory gleam. Thou shalt not, however, be condemned unheard.—So in I stepped and scribbled down my name, at once proud and dissatisfied that my name was the first on the list.

I then learnt from the honest grocer, who would as soon think of imposing on a customer, as of embellishing a story, that M'Kenzie is an ingenious, self-taught young peasant, who by ceaseless industry supports himself in humble independence, and in the usual hours of leisure, amuses himself by writing pieces of poetry, specimens of which have lately appeared in the *Belfast* news-letter, and other periodical prints, under the signature of *Gaelus*. And that—a rare instance of the union of prudence and poetry—he is completely clear of the characteristic defects of fancy's sons, indolence and dissipation. Now, though the virtues of the man cannot be substituted for the abilities of the poet, they reciprocally enhance

each others value; and the notice that I understand is taken of him by some of the higher circles in his own neighbourhood, is a testimony of the favourable opinion they entertain of him in both these respects.

Since the tasks of authorship cannot be easily fulfilled in the most auspicious circumstances, how embarrassing must they be to a man in M'Kenzie's sphere of life! If the classical scholar is sometimes at a loss how to proceed with critical accuracy, though an extensive library affords him established examples, how perplexed must M'Kenzie frequently be who has no preceptor but simple nature, whose alcove contains few books, and whose memory is stored with little science! If the accomplished gentleman forsake his studies, indolence or pleasure are the cause; when M'Kenzie laid down his pen, the clamour of ignorant opposition, or the calls of labour interrupted him. If the popular poet with awe-struck anticipation awaits the decision of the public, what must be M'Kenzie's solicitude!—an inexperienced adventurer, who, though modestly suspicious of the general imperfections of his work, feels himself too unskilled to particularize them, and has no friend refined enough to assist him in the task. It was difficult for Antiquus, the emperor, to perfect his philosophy; but how was it possible for Epictetus, the slave, to become a philosopher at all?

It is probable attempts of this nature would be more encouraged among the Irish peasantry, if their superiors were not doubtful that such pursuits might withdraw their minds too much from the immediate duties of their station; but on this account they may oppose studious opulence, as much as studious indigence. If the statesman finishes a poem when he should be writing an official dispatch, or if the divine plans a play when he should be putting the last hand to his sermon, they are as blameable as the rustic who writes doggerels when he should be actuating the flail or the shuttle. The abuse of any thing, it has been often observed, ought not to prohibit the use of it.

The plebeian productions that have lately appeared in some of our northern counties, trifling as they may be in themselves, are a presumptive proof that civilization and taste, silent and soft as the dew-drop on the roses stem, are gradually descending from the archtreve to the pedestal of the social column. Emulous of obtaining a small portion of the applause he hears bestowed on illustrious genius, the aspiring rustic writes and publishes. This awakens a curiosity to read in his less intelligent neighbour; he purchases the simple volume, and lends it, because he likes it; as his understanding improves, he advances to works of greater importance, and lends them too; and so on, buying, borrowing, and lending, till the useful knowledge with which his mind is stored, is disseminated among all his acquaintances. Let us then not withhold our subscriptions from M^rKenzie, lest we find too late that we thus nipt merit in the bud, which it would have been our interest, and our honour to protect. As in law, it is reckoned a less mistake to let ten criminals escape, than to condemn one innocent sufferer; so in literature it is nobler to let several insignificant productions appear, than to consign a single meritorious one to oblivion through prejudiced neglect. MÆCENAS.

Good-wind.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

SIR JOHN TALLYHO AND MR. FREEMAN.

Mr. Freeman. I congratulate you, Sir John, upon the recent accession to your income, though I regret poor Robert Thomas; he was a very hospitable man.

Sir John. Yes, and a very abstemious one into the bargain. The fellow never would get drunk at fairs, like his neighbours, and so kept up his last life in the lease, till I thought he intended to convert the tenure into a perpetuity.

Mr. Freeman. He was a good neighbour, though not perhaps a jovial one; the poor people who held under him, in addition to the loss of their valuable interest, have to lament

a steady friend, who assisted them upon every emergency.

Sir John. Nay—not upon every emergency: I remember when Phil. Blackingly, who involved himself by horse-racing, wanted to borrow fifty pounds from him, he absolutely refused to lend the sum, though I offered to join in the security.

Mr. Freeman. True, he often said that Phil. was incorrigible, and that to lend him money was only to pauper his unhappy passion for the turf; but don't you recollect that after Phil's death, he advanced his widow £150 interest free, for two years, to assist in settling her up in business.

Sir John. I have some vague recollection of it; yes, he was a man of a peculiar charitable way of thinking, his compassion was deep rather than rapid, it did not flow with the quickness of Goldsmith's Pastor.

“Whose pity gave ere charity began.”

Mr. Freeman. Such pity is more calculated to operate as a sentiment than a principle; but this department of benevolence so often abused, requires more elucidation, than I am at present inclined to give it. I am come a suitor to you on behalf of John Manning, one of the poor subtenants of Thomas; he hopes you will give him a lease of the land he has been so long in possession of, and will pay you whatever increase, considering the circumstances, may be thought reasonable.

Sir John. My dear Sir, it grieves me to decline any recommendation of yours, but consider how I am situated: were I to accede to Manning's proposals, I should have all the other subtenants on my hands.

Mr. Freeman. And suppose on the same terms of their paying a fair advance, you had them all upon your hands, where would be the harm?

Sir John. Trouble, my dear Sir, I detest, and to me there is nothing so troublesome as petty accounts with petty people, and my agent is entirely of my opinion—no, they must all march—I have advertised the lands, and I have already received proposals from two or three solvent people.

Mr. Freeman. But if the occupying tenants pay you as much as the strang-

er, who has given in proposals for the land, will you not give them the preference?

Sir John. You must excuse me; even at the risk of my popularity as a patron of middle men. I am determined to convert the many small holdings into one large farm of five hundred acres, and let it to a single tenant.

Mr. Freeman. Had your estate been originally so divided into such extensive portions, I should not have presumed to recommend their subdivision. I know many advocates for large farms, who support their theory with very plausible, and perhaps conclusive arguments; but give me leave to say that in this particular instance I think the dispersion of these poor people a measure not merely harsh, but in reference to the public good, impolitic.

Sir John. Harsh, my good friend! nay it cannot be termed harsh, they have used my land, and I have spent the rents they paid me; "the world is all before them where to choose their place of rest."

Mr. Freeman. By no means, the world cannot be said to be all before him whose local attachments are established, and whose residence is endeared to him by every tie which can most strongly bind the human heart; he who has built a house, and under its roof experienced all the delights, and the no less endearing anxieties of domestick life, cannot turn his back upon his dwelling without experiencing a pang which no generous heart would wish to inflict.

Sir John. I'll allow there may be some harshness, but where is the impolicy?

Mr. Freeman. The impolicy in my mind, consists in breaking the strong links of affectionate attachment between man and his native country; he who has lived where his ancestors have lived, and who is deterred from the commission of wrong, not merely by the dread of law, but by the fear of imputed degeneracy, will be a more valuable subject, and a better member of the community than the stranger who is unknown to the neighbourhood where he comes to reside.

Sir John. But surely the necessity

of establishing a character is so imperious, the individual from motives of self interest, will, wherever he goes endeavour to attain it.

Mr. Freeman. But why deprive him of one of the strongest motives, the example of those who have gone before him, and the desire to emulate it?

Sir John. Besides it has been proved that the system of large farms is beneficial to a country, and small farms the contrary.

Mr. Freeman. Yes, Sir John, all that and much more has been proved satisfactorily upon paper, but its practical application to any country, and especially to Ireland, is by no means equally conclusive. Swift, above a century ago, asserted that no maxim of general policy referrible to other countries was applicable to this, its population was not power, nor its fertility wealth.

Sir John. But now the case is altered.

Mr. Freeman. Very little, if we may judge by the best criterion, the comfort and the prosperity of the lower classes. Government is reflected in the faces of the poor; if melancholy depresses their countenances, and filth disfigures their dwellings, depend upon it, that there is something defective, radically defective, in the administration of public affairs; nor will the matter be mended by an indulgence in theories, on the part of Irish gentlemen, unsanctioned by the only true test, long and actual experience of their good effects.

Sir John. Surely you will not deny this same actual experience has been fully verified in England.

Mr. Freeman. Supposing that to be the case, of which I have doubts, you will equally allow that the tenant right in England is uniformly respected; all that remains to England of real strength arises from adherence to this custom, while her weakness may be attributed to her casual departure from it; the people are attached to their country, and will therefore defend it; the middle and the lower classes, the real strength of the state, are not at the mercy of every capricious land-holder, who in conformity with a system, disbands

a troop of faithful adherents, and gives their possessions to a stranger, who acknowledges only the common bonds of duty, but feels none of those livelier sentiments which bind the tenant to his lord, and both to their country.

Sir John. You grow warm.

Mr. Freeman. My intimate acquaintance with your father, and my regard for you, from a child, must plead my excuse with you for the earnestness into which this subject always betrays me.

Sir John. My dear sir, make no apology, I respect your zeal, and admire your energy; but I think I shall be able coolly to prove to you that in Ireland, more than any where else, the destruction of small farms should be particularly accomplished to check if possible that over population, the source of all our misfortunes.

Mr. Freeman. You are a disciple of Malthus.

Sir John. A true and zealous disciple, Mr. Freeman; to-morrow we will renew our conversation, I must now hurry away to give directions about the levelling of some old cottages upon a farm of which I have just now got the possession. I hope soon in the same way to demolish Robert Thomas's hovels—yes, yes—Mr. Freeman, whatever it may cost our feelings, we must check the over population of Ireland.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

GENTLEMEN,

IN your Magazine for last month, page 457, you give an extract from the Phil Mag. vol. 34, page 378. respecting a method of obtaining flax from broom, by Mr. Hall, who it appears claims the discovery as his, and of course announces it to the world as new. If he does, he is wrong,* as it has been long known in France, for Mr. Broussonet,

* That the use of broom flax has been long known, and consequently was not discovered by Mr. Hall, was noticed in the remarks, on the abridgment of his pa-

in *Memoires d'agriculture, par la Société de Paris, 1785; trimestre d'automne page, 127*, has also recommended the Cultivation of the broom under the name of *genet d'espagne* and has enumerated the many uses to which it may be applied. The people of Lower Languedoc especially in the neighbourhood of Lodève, make of it table cloths, shirts, and other articles of dress. From the above extract, you will see that the manufacture of flax from broom, has long been carried to perfection in that part of France, and it is probable that other countries may at this moment be employing it in the same way. Mr. Hall however deserves the thanks of his countrymen for calling their attention to the manufacture of an article, that has hitherto in these kingdoms, been considered as of little use. I am, gentlemen, &c. Z.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

ON INDIAN CORN ADAPTED TO A COLD CLIMATE.

PROBABLY the information contained in the following extract of a letter may be acceptable to some of your readers. At least it will show the liberality of the late American president, and that whatever measures he may find himself forced to pursue as a statesman, he is still a philanthropist in his wish to add to the means of subsistence of the inhabitants of the British isles. "A letter has been received from Mr. Bradbury who went out to collect plants in America for the Botanic gardens of Liverpool and Dublin. He has been with Mr. Jefferson, who enters very warmly into the plan, and has offered his garden as a depot for any plants he may collect, which he will, should there be a war, send to Liverpool. He also informed Mr. Bradbury that Captain Lewis, whom he, when President of the United States, sent

per, in our 17th number, p. 457; we are however obliged to Z for the above particulars in confirmation of our former statement.

B. M. M.

to explore the Missouri, had in Lat. 40, at a vast distance from the mouth of the Missouri, and in so elevated a situation as to present a climate like Greenland, discovered a species of zea (maize) very productive, that will grow on the Highlands of Scotland, and also a species of the holcus sorghum (Indian millet) still more productive; some of the plants measured 14 feet in height. Mr. Jefferson thought they would be of great importance to Great Britain, and has promised to send some seeds of each to Mr. Roscoe. Mr Bradbury has found several new and beautiful plants, as, two cypripedia (lady's slipper) two orchidea &c. He has also found the Sesamum indicum which is very productive of oil. He is now exploring Louisiana, which has not yet been visited by any botanist. This account is interesting, as if true, it will enable us to keep at a distance for some time the evils which Malthus predicts. Mr. Bradbury says, Captain Lewis, is cultivating the maize and millet with success at Louisville. Lewis found a tribe of cultivating Indians, but not the Welsh colony which they have been so long seeking."

K.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

ANSWER TO QUERIES OF M. OF LAMBEG.
GENTLEMEN,

YOUR Correspondent M. of Lambeg, inquires how bleachers may know if barilla ash, and potash contain fixed air (carbonic acid gas)

2. How to separate fixed air from the lees of the above ashes, and,

3. If the lees from said ashes are not freed from the fixed air they contain, how far using them in that state will retard their operation in the process of bleaching linen with them.

In the first place then it is certain that potash and barilla ash in their usual form, always contain fixed air; in fact they are both carbonates, viz. salts whose base is combined with carbonic acid, the one is a carbonate of potash, and the other a carbonate of soda.

Now to free the potash or soda, from the fixed air, we must employ

some agent which has a stronger affinity for carbonic acid, than they have; for this purpose lime in its pure or caustic state is every way most eligible; when lime comes in contact with carbonate of potash or soda, the carbonic acid quits the potash or soda to unite with the lime, the result of this combination is potash or soda in its pure or caustic state, and carbonate of lime (common chalk) which being insoluble in water falls in a precipitate to the bottom, and leaves the potash or soda, dissolved in the water.

The easiest way for the bleacher, will be to make his lee as strong as possible in the usual way, and then to add to it by degrees, while hot, lime water, until the precipitate ceases to fall; the vessel must then be covered so as to prevent the admission of the air until the liquor becomes clear, it is then to be decanted off for use. We may ascertain whether it contains any lime, by adding a little lee, when there will be a precipitate, or on the contrary, whether the carbonic acid be entirely separated by dropping in a little lime water. The operator may however soon discover by a few experiments on the snail scale, how much lime water will be necessary to disengage the fixed air from a certain portion of lee of a given strength; by this means any quantity of the pure liquor may be prepared at once.

In answer to the third query, it may be observed, that if the utility of these salts in bleaching depends on their alkaline quality (which I believe no one will doubt) then the stronger or more alkaline they are, the more effectually will they answer the purpose; the means then of giving them this property in perfection is to deprive them of their fixed air, which blunts their powers and renders them comparatively useless in proportion to the quantity they contain. The fixed air is an acid, which like every acid more or less neutralizes the alkali to which it is joined. Bleachers however should be aware of this fact, for the more their lee is deprived of fixed air, the more caustic will it become; it is necessary therefore that it be largely diluted, so as to

prevent its too powerful action on the vegetable fibre.

It may not be foreign to the present subject to observe, that a very easy way to ascertain the comparative strength or goodness of different ashes will be to find what weight of each kind will be necessary to neutralize a given portion of any of the mineral acids, of a known strength: a mixture of this kind is said to be neutral, when it ceases to change the blue colour of some delicate vegetables, such as the infusion of litmus, radishes, or cabbage.

The following table is the result of some experiments, made on this subject, by Vanquelin.

	Potash.	Sol. phos. of Potash.	Muriatic Potash.	Trisulph. of resins.	Carb. acid and water.
1184 parts of American ashes, contained,	857	154	80	2	119
Boston ashes,	772	85	5	28	264
Pearl ashes,	754	80	4	6	308
Potashes of Treves,	730	165	14	24	199
Danish ashes,	603	162	14	29	304
Potashes of Vöges,	444	148	510	34	304

I believe it is not necessary to describe the method of making lime water, as that is known to most people; it may be dissolved in about 400 times its weight of water, and kept after being decanted very close from the air, but as the great quantity of water necessary to dissolve the lime, might probably render the solution of potash too weak for use, dry lime fresh from the kiln, may be substituted, this on being well mixed with the hot lees, will attract the carbonic acid from the potash or barilla, and fall insoluble to the bottom; the weight of lime necessary for any quantity, may be ascertained at first by a few small experiments.

Belfast.

J.M.S.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

Third Report of the Committee appointed to take into consideration the Acts now in force regarding the use of Broad Wheels; and to examine what Shape is the best calculated for ease of draught, and the preservation of the Roads.

Continued from p. 443, No. XVII.

LIMITATION OF THE HEIGHT OF FENCES.

1. Resolved, **T**HAT it is the opinion of this com-

mittee, that it is expedient in all new inclosures, now or hereafter to be made, that the hedges, walls or fences to be erected for the purpose of making such new inclosures, adjoining to any existing or any intended highway, be limited (including the growth thereon) to the height of five feet above the centre of the road, and that no such hedge, wall or fence be permitted to be raised, stand or grow more than five feet above the centre of such road, unless such hedge, wall or fence be removed to a distance from the side of the road equal to its elevation above the centre of the road.

2. Resolved, That it is the opinion of this committee, that the magistrates in their respective districts, and the trustees of all turnpikes, be empowered to direct the surveyors acting under their authority, to reduce wherever they shall think fit, all hedges, walls or fences adjoining to the turnpike roads, or other highways respectively, according to the proportions assigned for hedges, walls or fences, to be erected on new foundations for the purpose of making new inclosures (such hedge, wall or fence not being the wall of any house, building, garden, hop-ground, or court-yard belonging to any house or other building, nor the paling or other fence of any park or paddock made for inclosing of deer) unless the owner of such hedge, wall or fence shall consent to maintain in a good and sufficient state of repair to be judged of by the surveyors respectively, or to compound for the expense of maintaining the roads adjoining to such hedge, wall or fence, at the average rate of repairing the roads of such parish or turnpike, at the option of the surveyors; the expense of reducing such hedges, walls or fences to be at the charge of the trust in the case of a turnpike road, and at that of a parish in the case of a public highway.

3. Resolved, That it is the opinion of this committee, that all pollards, bushes, or other growth standing or growing on banks, hedges, walls or other fences adjoining to the highways, be annually cut down before the 15th of November in each year, so that no part thereof do exceed the

height of five feet above the centre of such highway in all cases where the solid parts of such banks, hedges, walls or fences shall be less than five feet in height above the centre of the said highways; and in cases where the solid parts of such banks, hedges, walls or fences do exceed the height of five feet, that the growth thereon be annually cut down, pruned or plashed close to the roots thereof, or on a level with the top of the said banks, hedges, walls or fences, so that such plashing do not exceed the level of the top of such banks, hedges, walls or fences.

4. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that the surveyors of all highways and of all turnpike roads do make returns to the magistrates of the division at the first petty sessions which shall be holden by them in December and March, that the periodical duties described in the first and second of these resolutions have been actually and effectually completed, under a penalty not exceeding ten pounds, nor less than forty shillings for every neglect.

5. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that no gate to any field shall open into the highway, unless it shall be at a greater distance from the side thereof than the full length of the gate.

No. 3.

Resolutions respecting Trees.

1. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that no trees shall be planted or permitted to stand or grow within 30 feet of the side of any highway intended to be fenced out for the purposes of making any new inclosure, except such trees as shall be actually standing or growing for the ornament or shelter of the house, building or court-yard of the owner thereof.

2. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that no tree or trees shall be planted or permitted to stand or grow within 30 feet of the side of any existing highway, unless the owner or occupier of the premises on which such trees do grow or stand or shall be planted, shall undertake to compound and pay a sum equal to one half of the average

annual repair of an extent of the said road equal to that which is likely to be injured by the standing of such trees within the limits aforesaid;—namely, of the whole breadth of the road and of 30 feet in length on each side of such tree, in the case of a single tree, and of the whole breadth of the said road, and of 30 feet in length beyond the two outermost trees, together with the space included between such two outermost trees, in the case of two or more such trees standing within 60 feet of each other and within the limits aforesaid. And that in all cases of trees belonging to different proprietors standing together either on the same side or on the opposite sides of a public highway, the expense of maintaining such portion of the roads, or of compounding for the maintenance thereof, shall be apportioned between the several proprietors or occupiers according to the number and situation of the trees belonging to each proprietor or occupier, adding in each case 30 feet in length on the said road beyond the outermost trees.

No. 4.

Resolutions relative to breadth of roads and distance of buildings.

1. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that all reductions of the breadth of an highway from the centre thereof to less than 15 feet from the said centre, shall be deemed an encroachment.

2. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that no house or other building shall be erected within fifteen feet of the centre of any highway above its present level on any old foundation; nor above five feet high on a new foundation above the level of the centre of the said highway. That no fence or building of any sort shall be erected on a new foundation within less than twenty feet of the centre of any highway or turnpike road leading directly to London within the distance of two hundred miles from London, nor within twenty-five feet of the centre of any highway or turnpike road leading directly to London within the distance of one hundred miles, nor

within thirty feet of the centre of any highway or turnpike road leading directly to London within the distance of fifty miles, nor within thirty five feet of the centre of any highway or turnpike road leading directly to London within the distance of twenty-five miles, nor within forty feet of the centre of any highway or turnpike road, leading directly to London within the distance of fifteen miles.

3. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that general power shall be given to the magistrates, and to trustees of turnpike roads, to purchase buildings within these limits by private agreement, or by jury to be impannelled as directed by the 16 sect. of 13 Geo. III. c. 78.

4. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that magistrates of the county in the case of a public highway, assembled at their quarter sessions, and trustees of a turnpike road or any five or more of them, shall be authorized to permit erections within these limits in particular cases, provided public notice of the intention of applying for such permission be given, and the parties applying for the same shall agree to maintain the road adjoining such buildings in complete repair, or to well and substantially pave and maintain the same, or pay a sum equal to double the average annual expense of maintaining such a length of road in complete repair, calculated on the annual expense of the whole road, at the option of the trustees in the case of a turnpike, and of that of the vestry of the parish in the case of a public highway.

5. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that no fair, market, race or other public meeting, shall be held on any turnpike or other highway, so as to obstruct the free passage on the same, but in all cases where the street, road or way will admit thereof, a breadth of 30 feet at the least shall be left unincumbered for the passage of travellers; and where such unincumbered breadth cannot be reserved, such fair, market, race, or other public meeting

shall, where practicable, be removed, under an order of the magistrates having jurisdiction therein, to such place where it can be conveniently held without producing such annoyance or obstruction.

No. 5.

Resolutions relating to the regulation of weights, &c.

1. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that from and after a period to be named, no waggon shall be permitted to be drawn on any highway, which including the burden contained therein shall weigh more than six tons in summer, nor more than 5 tons 10 cwt. in winter, except such burden be a single block of stone, a single cable rope, a single piece of metal, of timber, or of ordnance. No such articles, which, including the carriage, shall exceed the greatest weight allowed by law, shall be carried on any carriage having less than four wheels of 9 inches breadth in the felloes and made conformable to law. All such articles, not being ordnance actually belonging to his Majesty, shall pay additional tolls in proportion to the probable injury occasioned by such additional burdens, that is to say, according to the squares of the additional weights.

2. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that a period of two years be allowed to the proprietors of broad wheel waggons to wear out their present wheels, and to make their waggons conformable to this new provision.

3. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that a progressively increasing toll or assessment shall take place, after the period of two years, on all wheels intended to be prohibited.

4. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that from and after a period to be named, the provisions of the 13 Geo. III. c. 84. respecting the weights to be carried, and the number of horses to be allowed to waggons and carts, be repealed, and the regulations contained in the following schedule be substituted in lieu thereof.

SCHEDULE (A)

Carriages.	Breadth of Wheels.	Horses.	Weights.		Observations.	
			Summer.	Winter		
Waggons	Having the tire 9 inches broad	7	6	0	5	10
	6 inches, rolling 11	6	5	10	5	0
	9 inches fore wheels, 6 hind .	6	5	2	4	12
	6 inches	5	4	5	3	15
	6 inches fore wheels, 3 hind .	4	3	17	3	7
	3 inches	3	3	0	2	10
	Less than 3 inches	2	2	10	2	0
Carts . .	9 inches	4	3	0	2	15
	6 inches	3	2	12	2	7
	3 inches	2	1	10	1	5
	Less than 3 inches	1	1	5	1	0

5. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that the nails of the tire of the wheels of all waggons and carts to be made or repaired from and after a certain period, if not already worn perfectly smooth, shall be countersunk, or shall pay double the tolls granted to the several trusts for wheels of equal breadth.

6. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that in like manner, from and after a certain period, carriages having projecting tires, or having tires, which deviate in their form more than in the proportion of half an inch in four inches and half, or one-ninth part from a flat surface, from the centre of the tire of the said wheels, to either of the external rims of the said tires, or which do not bear fairly on the ground in their whole breadth in the like proportion, or having their shoes of less breadth than the soles of the wheels, shall in all cases be considered as narrow wheels, and be limited in weight and pay increased tolls at turnpike gates, and increased parochial assessments accordingly.

7. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that it is expedient to encourage the use of waggons and carts whose wheels have the tire of the fellies not less than six inches in breadth, perfectly flat and cylindrical, the nails countersunk, and the axles and arms straight and horizontal.

8. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that for the purpose all carriages furnished with wheels

of this description shall be permitted to pass through the turnpike gates, erected on the different turnpikes throughout the kingdom, on paying one half only of the tolls payable by carriages of the like description in other respects.

9. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that a parochial tax assessment in aid of the highway rate, on a scale to be formed in proportion to the burdens usually carried thereon, or the horses employed therewith, and regulated by the breadth of their wheels, be laid on all carriages, excepting those above described, having the tire of the wheels six inches in breadth and perfectly flat and cylindrical, the nails countersunk, and the axles and arms straight and horizontal.

10. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that from and after five years the use of all waggons if drawn by more than two horses, and of carts if drawn by more than one horse, having the tire of the fellies less than six inches in breadth, shall be prohibited to be used on any turnpike road.

11. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that from and after eight years, the use of all waggons if drawn by more than two horses, and of carts, if drawn by more than one horse, having the tire of the fellies of less breadth than six inches, shall be prohibited to be drawn on any highway.

12. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion

of this committee, that all carriages carrying fodder and manure shall be liable to the same restrictions with regard to weights, construction of wheels and number of horses, as other carriages, in order to exempt them from the payment of any part of the tolls granted for the maintenance of any turnpike road.

13. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that all carriages which are now exempt from the payment of tolls on account of their carrying fodder or manure, shall, if they pass more than four miles on any turnpike road, be liable to pay one half of the tolls payable on carriages of a similar description on the same road.

14. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that the surveyors and majority of the inhabitants of any parish in vestry assembled, shall be authorized and empowered to erect weighing machines within their respective parishes, and to levy penalties in aid of the highways similar to those granted, either by the general turnpike act, or by the act for the regulation of the nearest turnpike, for excessive burdens.

15. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that the keepers of weighing engines, whether belonging to particular parishes or to a turnpike road, and the trustees, surveyors, or other parish officers entrusted with the regulation, care, or letting of such weighing engines, be prohibited from compounding with the proprietors of waggons or other carriages; and that waggon masters and others interested in carrying goods, wares, or merchandize, be prohibited from renting the said weighing machines.

16. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that the owners of all waggons and carts as well as the drivers of the same, be responsible for all evasions practised in carrying heavier loads than the law allows.

17. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that magistrates assembled in quarter sessions should be authorized to fix the quantities of wheat, lime, chalk, timber, coal, and all other articles capable of being defined, to be carried on waggons and carts, in conformity to the pro-

visions of the law respecting weights, so as they do not in any case admit of greater weights being carried than are permitted to be carried in the schedule (A) by the respective waggons and carts therein described.

18. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that magistrates assembled in petty or quarter sessions, be authorized to make regulations, respecting triggers or checks for waggon and carts going up hill, in districts where such precautions appear to be necessary.

19. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that magistrates in their districts be empowered to authorize a greater number of horses, wherever it shall be satisfactorily proved to them that a greater number are usually in summer necessary to draw the weights permitted to be drawn in any carriages limited by law as to the weight which they are to carry, provided that no greater number of horses be allowed in winter than in summer, but rather that a diminution of burden do then take place. That opportunity be given to surveyors of turnpikes and of highways to controvert the statements of interested persons: that the district surveyor or surveyors, of parishes and of turnpikes be summoned to attend the meetings held for the purpose of hearing and determining such questions.

20. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that no boys of less than fourteen years of age be permitted to conduct waggons, and that additional penalties do attach on persons refusing or resisting and using force to prevent information.

No. 6.

Regulations regarding Surveyors and Inspectors.

1. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that the nomination and appointment of the surveyors should take place at an earlier period of the year than is at present by law established, and that the period for making up and settling the accounts of the preceding surveyors, be altered accordingly.

2. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that no person who

hath served the office of surveyor one year, shall be again appointed for the same place within two years, without his consent.

3. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that the magistrates acting for any county, riding, hundred, rape, wapentake, tithing or division of the same, shall be authorized to appoint a district surveyor or inspector out of the persons best qualified, and most likely to execute the office with vigour and effect, for the district in which they shall act, instead of the assistant surveyor, with a salary for such days as he shall be called upon to act, not exceeding in the whole one eighth part of a *6d.* parochial assessment of the true annual value or rent of the parishes within the district; and that such magistrates be empowered to equalize the highway rates within the parishes contributing to the payment of such salary, and to call before them for that purpose all parish officers and others, and to examine parish rates.

4. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that such inspector shall thrice in each year (and oftener if required by the magistrates) inspect and take notes in writing of the state of the roads in each township or parish, once preceding the general spring meetings of the surveyors to be held in March, at a special sessions of the magistrates; secondly within fourteen days previous to Midsummer, and thirdly within fourteen days of Michaelmas, and to take down in writing on view, and to report the state of hedges, drains, plats, bridges, and all nuisances, as well as to suggest such alterations and amendments as can conveniently be made.

5. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that the number of days which shall be deemed sufficient for such inspection, shall be appointed by the magistrates at special sessions; and that if thought necessary by the magistrates, the inspector be further ordered in writing to view the roads or any part of them at other times, and to ascertain whether the orders of the magistrates are duly executed or not, and for other purposes. A copy of each order of a

magistrate to be sent to the inspectors.

6. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that such inspector be appointed for two or more years, and to take an oath of office or appointment, and if called upon, to particular facts as well as when on evidence; and that he do give bond for the payment of and accounting for monies, with penalties for neglect of duty of from £20 to 40s.

7. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that on the death of the inspector, or his otherwise becoming incapable from ill health, or quitting his residence in the district for a distance of more than ten miles, the said justices shall appoint another; the said inspector in all cases to be a principal evidence on oath on the part of the public as to all offences against the highway laws.

8. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that the surveyor, on order of the justices to be delivered to the inspector, do make all necessary drains, trunks, plats, bridges, &c. where they lead out of the highways, to be charged to the parish account; the execution of the same, and their state to be reported to the magistrates in special sessions by the inspector. This provision not to prevent the surveyor from acting upon his own authority and judgment where he sees fit, as now authorized and required by law, if not contrary to the special order of the justices in any particular case.

9. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that the inspector of the highways as well as the surveyor, do give information of persons liable to repair by tenure, and do report where direction-posts are wanted, where materials are to be procured, as well within the particular parish, township or place requiring the same, as in the adjacent parishes where the particular parish does not supply the same.

10. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that the parochial surveyor do report to the inspector thrice in the year and oftener if required, the state of the roads, and of the

operations required to be done either periodically or otherwise, and do upon requisition made, attend the district surveyor in his surveys of the parish, township or place under his particular superintendence.

11. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that at the special sessions to be held in March or April, the surveyor shall appear to show cause why a full assessment of sixpence in the pound should not be raised within his district; the inspector of the highways also attending, to bear witness from his written notes, whether the whole assessment or what part thereof may be wanting for the repair of the roads, due attention being paid to the money on account arising from the non-performance of last year's statute duty or otherwise.

12. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that it shall be at the option of the surveyor to require the statute duty in kind, or a composition in lieu thereof, at such rate as shall be fixed by law on all property, or in the case of teams, draughts or ploughs with their horses, or oxen, or labourers, at such rates as the justices at their special sessions to be held within fourteen days after the quarter sessions shall adjudge to be reasonable, due regard being had to the ordinary wages of labour and rate of hiring such teams, draughts or ploughs in such neighbourhood, not exceeding 12s. nor less than 3s. for each team, draught, or plough for each day, and in default of their adjudging and declaring the same the sum of 6s. for, and in lieu of every such days duty for each team, draught or plough; and for every cart and two horses, or beasts of draught not exceeding 8s. nor less than 3s. and in default of adjudging 4s. and for every cart with one horse or beast of draught not exceeding 6s. nor less than 2s. and in default of adjudging 3s. for, and in lieu of every day's duty; and for every labourer not exceeding 2s. nor less than 1s. and in default of adjudging 1s. 6d.

13. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that penalties in all cases be double the rate of composition, on non-performance or on not

sending the requisite number of horses or men, &c.

14. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that the hours of work for all statute labour, should be eight entire hours of working on the place appointed, exclusive of the time of going, returning, the hour of meal, &c. for each day's work.

15. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that the magistrates in petty session shall be empowered to limit and define by weight or measure what quantity of stone or of other materials should be deemed a load, for each of the several teams, draughts, ploughs or carts employed in the several parishes within their jurisdiction, having due regard to the situations in which they are to be employed and to the general practice of the country.

16. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that every person liable to statute duty from property occupied or for teams, &c. should be assessed in just proportions, and that a copy of this assessment, stating whether the several persons are intended to be called upon for their compositions or for labour in kind or for both, and in what proportion of each, be delivered to the inspector of the highways.

17. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that personal labour shall be requirable of all such persons not paying on account of property occupied, or on account of teams, &c. as shall gain their living by the wages of daily labour, or such parts of them as the surveyors shall think fit, upon being paid for such labour the usual and customary wages of the district; on refusal of such personal labour, the said persons to be liable to assessment at the rate of the customary wages of ordinary labour in the district for as many days as shall be fixed by the general highway rate for the year.

18. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that justices in special sessions may exempt poor persons from paying the rate to the highway, in consideration of their poverty, number of children, &c. though occupying rateable property.

19. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion

of this committee, that the proportion of duty performed between March and September be deducted from the whole due according to the legal proportions, and that the remaining balance be paid in the month of October to the surveyor of the parish, township or place, on penalty of paying double of the sum then due.

20. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that a copy of the account thus settled, be delivered to the inspector of the highways, whose duty it shall be (where any shall have been appointed) to cause the demand for the arrears of assessment and statute duty to be made by the surveyor; where no inspector shall have been appointed, the surveyor to proceed of his own authority to recover the same under the modes pointed out, and under the penalties and fines established by the existing or by the intended laws.

21. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that with the approbation of the surveyor, compositions in money may be paid in lieu of statute duty, provided the persons wishing to compound, and obtaining the consent of the surveyor, do pay the whole of the demand or sum rated in the assessment within fourteen days, after having obtained such consent, under pain of forfeiting double the sum for neglecting or delaying to pay the said composition.

22. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that in cases where the inhabitants of any parish, township or place, do not deem it expedient to fix upon any certain times for the seed sowing, or for the hay and corn harvest, when no statute the statute duty, in kind, provided that the persons who have been summoned to perform such duty is to be called forth in conformity to the 43 sect. of 13 George III. c. 78. That no horses, oxen or men actually employed in the sowing of corn or other seed, or in getting in the hay or corn harvest, or in saving any other crops, shall for those days be called upon to perform duty, and who shall be excused

from the performance in consequence of such occupations, do give notice to the surveyor of the earliest day when they shall have finished such operations, and do receive the surveyors further directions accordingly, under penalty of performing a double day's duty, or paying a double composition for every omission.

23. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that each year in the month of March, the inspector and also the surveyor shall show their accounts to the magistrates, stating therein what sum arising from statute duty assessments or from composition or fines are then in hand for the repair of each division, parish, township or place, when the future assessment of each division, parish, township or place shall be regulated in proportion to the stock of money in hand, or which shall be due and recoverable within one month.

24. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that the surveyor's duties, services, powers and penalties shall remain as before, when not altered by this act, without abridging in any degree his authority or responsibility, unless where controuled by the inspector.

25. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that the penalties attaching on the surveyors, shall be double of those which attach on all individuals omitting to do what the law requires or wilfully offending against the law, and the penalties attaching on the inspectors double of those to which the surveyors are subjected. That inspectors of highways as well as surveyors, be in all cases relating to the roads competent witnesses. That forms of schedule for the statute duty and compositions be printed and delivered to each surveyor and inspector, to be paid for by them, out of the monies raised in the several parishes, townships or places. That copies or duplicates of all schedules when filled up, be fixed on the church doors of each parish, or other public place in each division, if so ordered by the magistrates in special sessions.

Aa

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF DISTINGUISHED PERSONS.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF MADAME
ROLAND.

"On life's rosy morn, with a prosperous breeze,
We all our light sails may display,
With a cloudless horizon may sweep
at our ease,
And of sorrow ne'er feel the salt spray;
But ere we have reach'd our meridian,
the gale
From the point of ill-fortune may blow,
And the sun of our being all cheerless and pale,
May set in the wild waves of woe."

RUSHTON.

BORN in an obscure station, the daughter of Gatten Philpon, an artist, and of Margaret Bimont his wife, Madame Roland passed her youth in the bosom of retirement, occupied in acquiring those virtues and talents by which she became afterwards so eminently distinguished. M. Philpon was, by profession, an engraver; he also practised painting and enamelling, but the heat which the latter required proving prejudicial to his sight, he determined to relinquish it, and confine himself wholly to the art of engraving, in which he employed, in an extensive business, a considerable number of workmen. Active and vain, but without erudition, he possessed that degree of taste and superficial knowledge which an employment connected with the fine arts seldom fails to inspire. His wife, had a small fortune, but a "charming figure and celestial mind;" her parents represented to her M. Philpon as an honest man, whose talents ensured her subsistence; her reason rather than her heart accepted of him. "It is a proof of wisdom," observes Madame Roland, "to be able to contract our desires: enjoyment is more rare than is imagined, but virtue is never without its consolation." Madame Philpon was sensible that instead of that happiness, which she could not expect, she should be able to attain domestic quiet, its most desirable substitute.

Jeanne Marie Philpon was the second of seven children, and the only one who survived; her mother frequently remarked, with pleasure, that of all her children, she alone had never caused her sorrow or regret. The prudence and other excellent qualities of Madame Philpon soon gave her an ascendancy over her daughter's mild and affectionate disposition. So great was this ascendancy, that in those little disputes, unavoidable between authoritative reason, and resisting infancy, she never found necessary to punish otherwise than by gravely applying to her the title of *Mademoiselle*, and fixing on her an eye of reproof. "I still feel" says Madame Roland, "the impression made upon me by her look, at other times so affectionate; I still hear, with a palpitating heart, the word *Mademoiselle*, substituted with heart-rending dignity, for the kind name of daughter, or the elegant appellation of *Manon*. Yes, *Manon*; for so I was called; I am sorry for the lovers of romance; there is certainly nothing noble in the name, nor is it at all suitable to a heroine of the lofty kind; yet the ears of the most delicate would have been reconciled to this name if they had heard it pronounced by my mother. What expression could want elegance when conveyed in her affectionate tones?" Lively without being turbulent, and of a reflective temper, *Manon* desired only to be employed, while she quickly seized every idea that was presented to her—At four years of age the business of learning to read was nearly completed, and it was only necessary afterwards to supply her with books, which, whenever she got into her hands, were sure to engross all her attention; which nothing but a nosegay could divert. "Under the tranquil shelter of my paternal roof," says she, "I was happy from my infancy with flowers and books: in the narrow confines of a prison, amidst the chains imposed by the most shocking tyranny, I forget the injustice of men,

their follies, and my misfortunes, with books and flowers."

The parents of *Manon* availed themselves of her studious turn, to put into her hands the Catechisms, with the Old and New Testaments; while she learned with facility every thing which was taught her. Guibol, a painter, whose panegyric on Poussin obtained the prize from the academy at Rouen, frequently visited at M. Philpon's; where he delighted in amusing the little *Manon* with extravagant and marvellous tales. "I think I see him now," says she, "with a figure bordering on the grotesque, sitting in an armed chair, making me repeat *St. Athanasius' Creed*; then rewarding my compliance with the story of *Tanger*, whose nose was so long, that he was obliged, when he walked, to twist it round his arm."

At seven years of age *Manon* was sent to the parish church to attend catechism, in order to prepare her for confirmation. The children, on this occasion repeated, as their weekly task, the epistle and gospel, a portion of the catechism, and the collect for the day. A young priest gave them instructions, and explained to them the questions necessary to the subject. The pastors were also sometimes seen among their youthful flocks, whom they interrogated respecting the progress they had made. The rector of the parish, accosted *Manon* on one of these days, in order to sound the depth of her erudition, and to display at the same time, his own sagacity. He was a good sort of a man, said to be very learned, though he could not deliver two words of common sense from the pulpit, in which he had the rage of exhibiting himself. "He asked me," says he, "how many orders of spirits there were in the celestial hierarchy; from the ironical tone and the air of triumph with which he put the question, I was persuaded that he expected to puzzle me. I answered, with a smile, that though there were many enumerated in the preface to the *Missal*; I had found from other books that there were nine; and so I marshalled before him in their proper order, the whole host of angels,

archangels, thrones, dominions, &c. Never was priest so satisfied, with the knowledge of his neophyte; it was quite enough to establish my reputation among all the devout matrons."

Possibly the good sense of Madame Philpon might have operated against these public exhibitions, and lessons of vanity and superstition, had not these ceremonies been committed to the care of her younger brother, a young ecclesiastic belonging to the parish, who found in the presence of his niece, a stimulus to persons, above the lower ranks, who by this example, were induced to send their children also. The capacity of *Manon*, and even the neatness and elegance of her appearance, were additional sources of gratification to the pride of her indulgent parents. The eagerness of *Manon* to learn, suggested to her uncle the idea of teaching her Latin; while delighted with a new study, she received his instructions with ardour. At home, masters for geography, for writing, for music, for dancing were provided for her; she received from her father also lessons in drawing. Amidst these various occupations she still found time for her lessons and her books; rising at five in the morning, when a profound repose reigned throughout the house, she was accustomed to steal softly, regardless of stockings or shoes, with a night gown thrown over her, to the chamber of her mother, in a corner of which, on a table, her books were deposited. In this situation she either read, or repeated and copied her lessons, with an assiduity that surprised her teachers. Her diligence and rapid progress rendered her the favourite of her masters; while the interest and pleasure they felt in assisting her, redoubled her industry and attention. Her tutors, at length, flattered by the capacity of their pupil, universally agreed, that their instructions were no longer necessary, and that they ought not to be paid, though they should gladly continue to visit at the house, to converse with their pupil, and, as friends, to behold her progress.

The influence of M. Philpon, over the education of his daughter, was

fortunately but slight, as that little was calculated to do mischief. Manon was sometimes obstinate or rather, she did not readily submit to authority or caprice, when her judgment resisted its dictates. Her mother who had studied a temper, which doubtless she had contributed to form, governed her by reason, or drew her by the cords of affection; nor did she often experience opposition to her will. Her father, hasty in his manner, issued his orders imperiously; he found them sometimes disputed, and seldom obeyed without reluctance. If despot-like he attempted to punish her, the affectionate and gentle Manon was converted into a lion. More than once, during the operation of a whipping, she bit the thigh across which she was laid, protesting with violence, against a chastisement so degrading.

One day being a little indisposed, it was thought proper she should take some medicine. The draught was accordingly presented, and from the nauseous scent, rejected with abhorrence. Madame Philpon tried to overcome the repugnance of her daughter, and, by expostulations, inspired her with the desire of obedience. But, her senses still revolting, the effort proved vain; M. Philpon, on hearing what had passed, put himself into a rage, and ascribing to stubbornness the resistance offered to the medicine, had once more recourse to his *remedy of the rod*. The resolution of Manon was from that instant taken, all desire of obedience vanished, and she determined against a compliance that was to be thus extorted. A violent struggle ensued, followed by new menaces, and a second whipping. The mischief was increased; Manon more indignant and more resolved, uttered terrible shrieks, and raising her eyes to Heaven, prepared to throw from her the bitter draught: her gestures indicated her design, and her father, in a transport of fury, threatened a third flagellation. All at once her tears ceased to flow, she sobbed no longer; her passions were concentrated in a single resolution. Fortitude was developed at the extremity of injustice. She presented herself to the rod in silence

and meek determination. "My father," said she, "might have killed me on the spot, without drawing from me a single sigh." Her mother dreadfully agitated by the scene, at last drew her husband from the room, and without uttering a word, put to bed the refractory daughter, and left her to repose. Having returned at the end of two hours she conjured her, while her eyes were filled with tears, to comply with their wishes. Manon, looking steadfastly in the face of her mother, made an extraordinary effort, and swallowed the medicine at a draught. A violent paroxysm of fever ensued, which was found necessary to cure by other means than by nauseous drugs, or by the rod. "It was," says she, "the same inflexible firmness I have felt on great and trying occasions; nor would it at this moment cost me more to ascend undauntedly the scaffold, than it did then to resign myself to brutal treatment which might have killed, but could not conquer me." This anecdote is related at length, as an useful lesson to parents and tutors. The conduct of his daughter seemed to have produced on M. Philpon its proper effect; from that instant she never received another blow, on the contrary, he caressed her frequently; taught her to draw; took her out to walk; and treated her with a kindness that ensured her respect and submission. The seventh anniversary of her birth day was celebrated as the attainment of the age of reason; when it was intimated to her, that she was expected to follow its dictates. This politic compliment, without increasing her vanity, gave her confidence in herself. The discretion of children is increased by an obligation to its early exercise.

The studies which occupied her time rendered the days short; she soon exhausted, with the elementary books, the little family library. New books were not to be obtained, the old ones were devoured again and again. Two folio lives of the Saints, a bible, in an old version of the same size, a translation of Appian's Civil Wars and a Description of Turkey, written in a wretched style, were thus read. She also read the

comical romances of Scarron, a collection of pretended *bon mots* (which however was perused but once) the memoirs of the brave De Pontis; the memoirs of Mademoiselle de Montpensier (whose pride did not displease the young lady) with several other antiquated works. The passion of knowledge possessed her to such a degree, that having picked up a treatise on the art of heraldry, she instantly began to study it. Of all the books she had read, she was most delighted with Dacier's Plutarch: "it was," says she, "the intellectual food which exactly suited me; I shall never forget the lent of 1763, at which time I was nine years of age, when I carried it to church instead of the exercises of the holy week. It was from that period that I may date the impressions and ideas which rendered me a republican, without my ever dreaming of becoming one." Telemachus, and Jerusalem Delivered, interfered a little with the current of these sublime impressions. The tender Fenelon moved her heart, and L'asso fired her imagination. She read no immoral publications, which were probably withheld from her; but the taste which she acquired from intellectual improvement superceded the necessity of particular watchfulness.

Her father also, perceiving her love of letters, presented her with books; of which, piquing himself on confirming the serious habits of her mind, his choice was curious: Fenelon on the Education of Females, and Locke on that of Children, were put into the hands of a student who was herself a child; but this incongruity was not without its benefits. "I loved to reflect says this truly admirable woman, "I seriously desired to improve myself: I studied the movements of my mind; I sought to know myself; and I felt I had a destination, which was requisite I should enable myself to fill. Religious notions began to ferment in my brain, and soon produced a violent explosion."

The progress of Manon in Latin seems not to have been very great; her "little uncle," as she was accustomed to call the Abbe Bimont, young, indolent and sprightly took more pleasure in prattling and sporting with

his niece, than in teaching her to decline nouns, and conjugate verbs; she, however, acquired sufficient Latin to chaunt and understand the Psalms, and to give her facility in the study of language; a few years after she learned Italian, without a master, and with little difficulty. In drawing, her father rather amused himself with her aptitude, than cultivated her talent in that art, in which her mother from prudential motives, was not desirous she should excel. "I would not have her become a painter," says she, "it would require an intercommunity of studies and connections, which she can well dispense with."

Little Manon was fond of dress, and her mother though plain in her own attire, took pleasure in adorning her daughter, whom she clothed with a degree of elegance not perfectly suited to her condition.

The mixture of serious duties, agreeable relaxations, and domestic occupations properly ordered, rendered her fit for every thing, and seemed to forebode the vicissitudes of her fortune, and enabled her to support them. Happy simplicity! in which the useful, the ornamental, the gay, and the serious, so delightfully blend.

Madame Phillipon, who was serious without being a bigot, and who conformed to the rules of the church, did not neglect to present to her daughter religious considerations, which were received with respect and attention. Having received confirmation with the temper of a mind that reflects on its duties, Manon prepared to receive her first communion. "The fit of devotion," says she, "which agitated me, produced an astonishing alteration in my mind. I became profoundly humble, and inexpressibly timid." A life which became every day more strict and retired, appeared yet too worldly for the young enthusiast, who had acquired a taste for divine communications, who passed her hours in perusing the lives of the Saints and the explanation of the church ceremonies, with all their mystic signification; and who unfeignedly regretted that the persecuting fury of pagans, no longer conferred the crown of martyrdom, upon heroic Christians. Manon began to think seri-

ously of embracing a new kind of life, and after profound meditation, fixed on going to a convent: the idea of parting with her mother had, till this period, never failed to overwhelm with affliction, her affectionate and susceptible heart; but now the silence and solitude of a cloister, presented a grand and romantic image of sacrifice and seclusion, which seized on her imagination, and dazzled her senses. In this disposition of mind, one evening falling at the feet of her parents, she implored them to send her to a convent; a measure which however painful to her feelings, her conscience irresistibly demanded. She was accordingly placed in a respectable house, of a mild order, in which the education of youth was professed by the nuns. She suffered very much on parting with her mother for the first time, "but," says she, "I thought I was acting in obedience to the voice of God, and passed the threshold of the cloister, offering up to him, with tears, the greatest sacrifice of which I was capable. This happened on the 7th of May 1765, when I was eleven years and two months old. In the gloom of a prison, in the midst of those political commotions which ravage my country, and sweep away all that is dear to me, how shall I recal to my mind, that period of rapture and tranquillity? What lively colours can express the emotions of a young heart, endued with tenderness and sensibility, greedy of happiness, awakening to the feelings of nature, and perceiving the Deity alone;" The regularity of a life which the variety of her studies alone diversified, was suited to her active, yet methodical mind; her diligence still left her leisure, while she improved every moment of her time. "In the hours set apart for walking and recreation," says she, "I felt no desire to run and play with the crowd, but retired to some solitary spot to read and meditate. How delighted was I with the beauty of the foliage, the breath of the zephyrs, and the fragrance of the surrounding flowers! Every where I perceived the hand of the Deity; I was sensible of his beneficent care of his creatures, and I admired his wonderful works. Full of gratitude, I went to adore him in the

church, where the majestic sounds of the organ, accompanied by the captivating voices of the young nuns chaunting their anthems, completed my ecstasy. With sensibility, that renders impressions so profound, and occasions so many things to strike us, that pass like shadows before common eyes, our existence never becomes languid. If life be measured by the sentiment which has marked every moment of its duration, I have already lived to a prodigious age."

At the entrance of Manon into the convent, it was resolved that she should remain there only a year; the time having elapsed she took leave of her companions. Some family circumstances induced her parents to place her for sometime with her paternal grandmother, a lively, good humoured woman who with pleasure accepted the charge. Her thirteenth year glided tranquilly away under the roof of her grandmother; the quiet of whose house accorded admirably with the tender and contemplative disposition, which Manon had brought with her from the convent. Her piety was sincere, but her understanding was too good to suffer her to become a bigot; she still secretly cherished the idea of taking the veil; but, lest she would give pain to her parents, she was unwilling to disclose her plan to them. In returning to the paternal roof, she seemed literally to be entering the world; her sensibility, which powerfully contributed to developè her mind, gave to every object, and to every situation a more striking and vivid hue. She still continued to take lessons in music; her master was ambitious of communicating to his pupil all he knew. "Put soul into it!" he was frequently exclaiming; not less afflicted at her want of expression in singing, than at the facility with which she pursued a chain of reasoning. "You sing an air," said he, "as Nuns chaunt an anthem." He perceived not that his scholar possessed too much genuine feeling to be able, thus mechanically, and without embarrassment, to give the sentiment of the song its proper tone. Her geography, history, arithmetic, writing, and dancing were resumed. To improve herself, and to acquire knowledge, were the only

ends which she had in view. "I felt," says she "a sort of necessity of exercising the activity of my mind. Placed in the hands of a skilful preceptor, and applying solely to a particular study, I might have extended some branch of science, or have acquired talents of a superior kind; but should I have been better or more useful? Certainly, I should not have been more happy. I know of nothing comparable to that plenitude of life, of peace, of satisfaction, to those days of innocence and of study."

On holydays, in fine weather, Mademoiselle Philpon was taken by her father to the public walks, where he was proud of displaying his daughter; he accompanied her also to every exhibition or work of art, in those days so frequent in Paris. On these occasions while he pointed out to her what was worthy of notice, he visibly enjoyed his own *superiority*.—These amusements, and the images they called up, agreeing but ill with the devotions and studies of a sober recluse, upon whose mind, accustomed to reflection, could not fail of producing a contrariety of reflections. Mademoiselle Philpon, while she opposed to the principles she had acquired in the closet, the maxims and manners of the world, became disturbed and uneasy; her reason received a shock that urged her to the investigation of the grounds of her faith. The first thing that confounded her in the religion which she professed, was the universality of its pretensions, which condemned to destruction all those by whom it was denied, or to whom it remained unknown. When, instructed by history, she considered the extent of the earth, the succession of ages, the diversities of human character, and of human opinion; the absurdity of this idea forcibly struck her mind, to which it appeared not less impious than absurd. "I am deceived," says she, "in this article of my creed, it is evident; am I not in some other equally wrong; let me examine?"—From this moment she was lost to the church: when an enthusiast begins to reason, emancipation is not far distant. Next to the cruelty and wickedness of damnation, came the

folly of infallibility, which was also in its turn disapproved and rejected. What then remained? The search went on, through a number of years, with an activity and anxiety not difficult to conceive by those who have traced a similar path. Critical, moral, philosophical, and metaphysical writers, next engaged the attention of the young student; while comparison and analysis became her employment.

While thus exercising her understanding on important studies, her serious and studious habits had given her character a certain rectitude and severity, which a timid and scrupulous conscience had confirmed; she became mistress of her imagination by learning to controul it, and to resist the first impulse of what appeared dangerous or wrong. "Pleasure like happiness," says she, "I can see only in the union of what charms the heart with the senses, and leaves behind it no regret. With such sentiments it is difficult to forget, and impossible to degrade oneself." Sundays and holydays were devoted to an excursion in the country, or a parade in the public walks near Paris. "During these walks," says she, "in which my vanity, powerfully excited, was on the watch for whatever might show me off to advantage, an insupportable vacuity, uneasiness and disgust, made the pleasure purchased seem always too dear. Accustomed to reflect and render to myself an account of my sensations, I inquired into the cause of this inquietude. Is it, said I to myself, to please the eye, like the flowers of a parterre, and to receive a few transient praises, that persons of my sex are brought up in the practice of virtue, and their minds are enriched with talents?—What means this intense desire of pleasure, which preys upon me, and which does not make me happy, even when it should seem that I ought to be most gratified. What to me are the admiring eyes and softly murmured compliments of a crowd, of which I have no knowledge, and which is composed of persons, whom, did I know, I would probably despise? Is it to waste my existence in frivolous cares, or tumultuous sensations, that

I am placed in the world? No! I have doubtless a nobler destination. The admiration which I so ardently feel for whatever is virtuous, wise, exalted or generous, tells me that I am called to practise these things.—By the habit of governing my passions, and by the care of cultivating my mind, I shall secure to myself the means of giving happiness to the most delightful of societies. Such were the thoughts that agitated my bosom; overcome by my emotions, I shed a flood of tears, while my heart exalted itself to the Supreme Intelligence, the principle of thought, and the source of sentiment; Oh thou! who hast placed me on the earth, enable me to fulfil my destination in the manner most conformable to thy divine will, and most beneficial to the welfare of my fellow-creatures! This unaffected prayer, simple as the heart that dictated it, is now my only one. In the midst of the tumult of the world, and in the depths of the dungeon, I have pronounced it with equal fervour; I have pronounced it with transport in the most brilliant circumstances of my life; I repeat it in fetters with resignation; anxious in the former to guard against every action unworthy my situation; careful in the latter to preserve the necessary fortitude for supporting me in the trials to which I am exposed. Persuaded that in the course of things, there are events which human wisdom cannot prevent; and convinced that the most calamitous ones cannot overpower a firm mind; that peace at home, and submission to necessity are the elements of happiness, and constitute the true independence of the hero, and of the sage.”

An account of her excursions into different parts of the country, and the sentiments which they excited are related in her letters to her friends, sometimes in prose, and sometimes intermingled with verse; the easy and happy effusions of a mind of which “all was picture, life and happiness.” She thus gives a description of one of her excursions. “Charmed at the idea of seeing a place unknown to me I proposed going a journey of a few miles with a female relation. Having

inquired about the persons to whose house we were going, and finding that we were to return the same day, I reflected that every thing would end in travelling twelve leagues, to dine and get moped for three hours, among people that I had never seen. I took it into my head that, dressed as a country girl, and passing for a servant, I should alike keep my cousin company, and have the liberty of walking about alone. It is true that I should be obliged to remain in the kitchen, and eat with a *Saint John* and some *Nymph of the kitchen*; but of what consequence was that to me for a few minutes? I got my plan approved of as a joke; the retinue was prepared; my mistress mounted on a horse; while I placed myself on an ass, in my borrowed cloathes; we set off in high spirits at 4 o'clock in the morning, in delightful weather. The still and serene sky as yet showed towards the east, only an orange coloured shade; the wakeful lark soared straining her tuneful throat; the humid plants exhaled an enchanting perfume; presently the horizon seemed to be in flames; the shining luminary burst forth like a blazing fire, his brilliant face rose, and his growing rays coloured the pearly drops of dew spread on the opening calyx of the flowers. Moved and transported in my enthusiasm, I vented this exclamation:

Simple nature, thee I greet,
Thou art fair, without deceit:
Nought immortal do I see,
Lovely nature, nought but thee:
Thou new joys canst still impart,
Charming both our eyes and heart.

More lively and gay, my companion mingled her voice with the song of the nightingales and the linnets: at ten o'clock we arrived at Estampes. I walked about the town for some time, and then joined my pretended mistress. It was dinner time, and my cousin's host insisted on our staying. I went into the kitchen where I found a *dame Julie*, who in five minutes convinced me she was a complete gossip; I was fatigued and fell half asleep on a chair; but I thought it was as much worth while to attend to this conversation as that of the mistress of the mansion, who

would have stunned me with descriptions of the fashion. At length we set off; my cousin was very anxious to know how I had spent the time which she had been obliged to give courageously to etiquette, and which I should have lost as she did, had I not chosen some character. I wished to laugh at ease at my little adventure and communicate to her my observations. This little journey may be considered by many people as a flight of imagination, and I confess it would not become many young girls to make similar excursions; but I do not think any one can blame those who should make them through motives such as mine."

Mademoiselle Philipon was indebted to nature for the most happy dispositions; and she had so well cultivated them, that at eighteen years of age she wrote deeply meditated reflections on the most abstruse subjects. But what rendered her still more esti-

mable, was her extreme modesty, and an absolute dislike to every pretension to genius. The more she wrote in silence and obscurity, the more her thoughts are the expression of her heart. Speaking of the writings which she composed when a girl, she says: "I have a pretty large packet of my writings, piled up in a dusty corner of my library, or perhaps in a garret; never had I the slightest intention of one day becoming an author. I perceived early in life, that a woman who gained this title, lost a great deal more than she acquired. The men ridicule her; and her own sex criticise her; if her works be bad, they join in laughing at her; if good, her right to them is disputed." Madame Roland wrote nothing for the press, but the Memoirs she composed during her imprisonment, and this was solely to repel the calumny that pursued her.

To be Continued.

DETACHED ANECDOTE.

NO FLATTERY TO KINGS, OR A CONTRAST TO JUBILEE SERMONS.

D'ALEMBERT, in his Select Eulogies, remarks that the most eloquent address ever delivered to Louis XIV. was that of a religious mission-

ary, who on his first appearance before the king, thus began his discourse: "Sire, I mean not to pay a compliment to your majesty, for I have found none in the gospel."

ORIGINAL POETRY.

VERSES,

ON THE DEATH OF THOMAS PHELPS,
MAYALLEN, FEB. 4, 1810.

THY sun is set, oh Phelps!
The mournful night is come,
The curtains of darkness have closed;
And never again on the earth,
Shall the living terrestrial form,
That embodied thy virtues appear.
The willow bends its branches o'er the stream;
Their drooping weight has sunk the weeping leaves,
Till buried in the wave, they lowly lie.
A double horror seems to spread around
The cypress' solemn shade;
The yew-tree darker looks,
BELFAST MAG. NO. XX.

And frowns more awful o'er the silent tombs.

For, brighter glories beam'd,
In heaven's ethereal way,
Than oft have bless'd a mortal sight,
When thy broad sun went down!

Alas! and is it gone?
Did Ariel's angel-form
Speed to the west and guide its glowing car?

For surely no glory of mortals,
Could stream such a radiance around—
Yes—winged as a seraph he flew;
Celestial glory beam'd
A dazzling splendour round his head;
In his own flaming car,
Rolling on wheels of gold,

Which fiery couriers drew,
With lightning's rapid speed,
He bore thy blessed spirit up aloft,
And seated it upon a throne,
With saints and angels in the midst of
heav'n.

And is it thus, oh Phelps!
Thy virtuous spirit fled?

Thy work below was done,
The measure of thy cup was full,
Too full of good, for earth to hold it
longer,

Scarce had the autumn sun
Of life beam'd on thy cheek,
But autumn's richest store
Of choicest virtues (oh! the excellence
The loveliness of wise and godly men!)
Were treasured up as in a holy shrine,
Within thy own pure bosom's calm a-
bode.

Rejoice! rejoice aloud!
Even angels sound above,
In realms of endless light,
The gratulation song!
Ye who with fondest love,
And bosoms torn by all the bitter pangs
Of warm affection's burning bonds,
Watched o'er his bed, when writhed in
agony,

The body struggled long
With dire convulsive throes,
Till nature ceased the strife;
A placid calm ensued—
And freed from mortal toils, the spirit
flew
In liberty's unbounded range,
Towering as eagles high,
Far o'er the tops of Caucasian hills,
With rapturous joy to the gates of Para-
dise.

But art thou gone, oh! Phelps?
Alas! alas! he is gone,
The friend of humanity;

Then flow afresh from sorrow-streaming
eyes

The fountains of your tears,
Ye, who have seen the softness of pity,
Beam in his eye like the dew-drop of
spring.

Let deeper gloom surround,
And mournful plaints proclaim your
grief unfeigned;

Put on the sack-cloth robes,
And roll your troubled heads,
Mourning in dust and ashes,
For alas! he is gone

The friend of humanity:
Who now will hear your petition?
Did he send you empty away?

No—thou wast nobly kind,
The gentle bosom of charity
Was ever sanctified,
And in thy hands twice blessed,

But, oft the hand that gave,
Was to the child of want invisible,
For the gratitude that flow'd
Even from sincerest hearts,
The tribute paid to virtue for thy boun-
ty,

Breathed not so pure a joy,
Nor thrilled such keen delight
As that small voice that whispered to thee
peace,

Diffused in heavenly charms,
Through all thy raptured soul.

And art thou gone for ever?
Then let the orphan weep,
Let the widow's sigh be heard;
For thou couldst feel a fond paternal care,
And cherish those, whose earthly stay,
By heaven's high will,
Was soon—too soon, alas! it seem'd—
withdrawn;

Never did filial piety more pure,
Flow to an anxious father, than to thee,
Their counsellor, friend,
The grateful whisperings of their orphan-
tongues,

For thousand generous cares;

Thy task is done,
No more shall the storms of life,
Beat on thy head;

But now receive thy reward,
In heaven, for the righteous decreed,
A holy unchangeable crown,
With amaranthine flowers entwined.

Exulting, hear the words of truth—
Behold my faithful servant,
Thou hast well done,
Enter to joy,
With the righteous of old;
Thy seat is prepared,
In the empyreal sky, a blest eternal
reign.

London Feb. 8, 1810.

T.H.

THE REPENTENT LIBERTINE.

From the French of M. Des Barreaux.

GREAT God of Heaven, whose judg-
ments are most just,
Indulgent ever to thy favourite man!
Alas! oh! God, alas! I've sinned so
much,

Mercy may pardon—justice never can.
Yes! oh! my God, I've plunged so deep
in guilt,

Thy interest now my happiness must
oppose,

Thy power supreme can only vengeance
choose

No choice, save vengeance, even thy
mercy knows.

Avenge thee then!—thy glory it de-
mands;

Yes! hurl thy bolts! 'tis time! wage war
for war—

Mercy be silent!—spurn, great God,
 these tears,
 Sinking, o'erwhelmed, thy wisdom I ad-
 ore!—
 But where, oh, God! where shall thy
 thunder fall?
 The blood of Jesus has't not covered
 all? J.W.E.

TO THE INCONSTANT.

YES, false one, triumph in my woes,
 And joy these flowing tears to view,
 How just to wound that heart's repose,
 That gladly would have bled for you!
 Yet poor the pleasure thou hast gain'd,
 And very soon it will be o'er,
 That bosom, where thou long hast reign'd,
 Shall fondly thro' for thee no more.
 Nor vainly think my tears, my sighs,
 Love's still unvanquished power pro-
 claim,
 Each drop that trickles from my eyes,
 But helps to quench his dying flame.

JU D'ESPRIT.

LE Temps s'enfuit, l'arrachons,
 Et que se passeroit il si vite,
 Nous entraînant dans sa fuite;
 Les ailes repandues
 Abrigent l'étendue
 Le nos vœux les rognons.

Encore s'enfuit, le laissons
 Nous hélas! ne sommes que mortels
 Vivons l'amour, et sur ses autels
 Tous les moments,
 Dans un torrent,
 De la joi nous vivrons. L.

EPISTLE TO A FRIEND.

FRIEND, companion more than sister,
 Heart to Pity's feeling's true,
 While my tears the paper blister,
 Let me breathe my woes to you.

Let me to thy friendly bosom,
 Speak the sorrows of my heart,
 There with trust let me repose them,
 Doomed from all I love to part.

Well thou know'st the fond affection,
 Which I've cherished and concealed,
 That tenderest, kindest, dear connection,
 Only to yourself revealed.

Long Lothario had possession
 Of my heart and fondest love,
 You alone heard the confession,
 Heard tho' you did not approve.

Oh! you warned me what a distance,
 Fortune had between us thrown,
 Urged how weak would be resistance
 When my heart was all his own.

That his father proud and haughty,
 Ne'er upon our loves would smile,
 Jealous of his house's honour,
 Would my humble state revile.

Still would Hope, the fond deceiver,
 Whisper to my anxious mind,
 That Lothario I should ever,
 Full of truth and honour find.

Oh! he swore how dear he loved me,
 Pleas'd I list'n'd to his vows,
 Tho' cautious I ne'er gave him other
 Proofs than modesty allows.

At this period to the city,
 By his father he was sent,
 Had you seen his grief at parting,
 How unwillingly he went.

You would never have conjectured
 That so soon his heart could change,
 That he so soon his love forgetting,
 Through the paths of vice would range.

Soon engaged in dissipation,
 All his love for me expires,
 Gaming, drinking, racing, spending,
 New supplies of wealth requires.

An old maid with many thousands
 Cast on him an amorous eye,
 Love ne'er smiled upon their union,
 Ne'er will bless the venal tie.

Your poor friend alone forsaken,
 Torn with love and wounded pride,
 Tho' with grief my heart is breaking,
 From the world my woes I'll hide.

For the sake of false Lothario
 Single will I pass my life,
 Never shall another lover,
 Greet me with the name of wife.

Come my friend and soothe my sorrows,
 Come and hush my grief to rest,
 Let me in the joys of friendship,
 Spite of love be truly blest.

SAPPHO.

THE FATE OF THE NOSE.

YE maids of the emerald isle,
 Ye daughters of Erin draw near,
 In the rainbow of grief mix the smile,
 With the soul thrilling, generous tear.
 To you my sad fate I'll unfold,

To you every sorrow disclose,
 That heart must be cruel and cold,
 Will not melt at the tale of my nose.

An old maiden aunt was my bane,
 After dinner each day (what a bore)
 She forced me, ah much 'gainst the
 grain!

To work at an odious tambour.
 On the nostril a redness began,
 (Ah! unlike to the bloom of the rose)
 From the tip to the bridge up it ran,
 And empurpled my aquiline nose.

I ran to my nurse for relief,
A woman right skilfull though poor,
Of her book she turn'd o'er every leaf,
Till of noses she came to the cure;
"Mix," she said, "with some cow-dung
some card,
Add of red herrings eight, all the roes,
In a skillet when all are well stirred,
Clap the poultice red hot on your nose."

In the morning, oh! dreadful to view,
A crop of white pimples appeared;
To Doctor Gilboly I flew,
Who with ointment my nostrils be-mear-
ed;

But instead of appeasing the smart,
This ointment increas'd all my woes,
So for England resolv'd to depart,
To the farriers I sail'd with my nose.

To the farriers I cried, "Doctors see,
A lady from Ireland, assist her!"

But so sooner I gave them my fee,
Than they stuck on my nose a horse
blister.

With anguish I fainted away,
But I found, when from swooning I rose,
In the true veterinary way,
They had fastened a touch on my nose.

I tried washes the itching to kill,
And the dire irritation to calm,
Moread's drops, Velno's syrup, Ward's
piff,

Gowland's lotion, and Solomon's balm;
Perkin's tractors I used for a week,
More inflamed th' erysipelas grows,
I scraped it till pain made me squeak,
But the redness increased on my nose.

By a surgeon at length I was told,
That all I was doing was wrong,
"Try cold, Miss O'Flinn, intense cold,
The redness you'll find wont last long.
Go to Russia, that region of ice,
Nature's storehouse of hailand of snows,
You'll be thankful for this good advice,
When you're rid of the red on yom
nose."

One friend I possess'd, Pat O'Sheen,
A generous despiser of self,
His father a harper had been,
And he played on the Jews' harp him-
self.

"'Tis, my Pat when misfortune betide,
His attachment an Irishman shows,
To the end of the world," he reply'd,
"Will I follow your beautiful nose."

In Moscow's thin isicled air,
I uncovered my nose to the frost,
But, oh! judge of my grief, my despair,
When I felt for my nose—it was lost!
"Oh! look for it, Pat on the ground,
And gather up also my toes,"
"The latter, dear lady, I've found,
But my search is in vain for your nose."

Ye maids of the emerald isle,
Erin's daughters, ah! pity my doom,
Weep for ever, nor suffer a smile,
To brighten the cloud of your gloom,
Let the cypress bough sullenly groan,
In harmony drear with my woes,
For in Russia, unmarked by a stone,
Lies unburied my aquiline nose.

REVIEW OF NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Reflections on the abundance of Paper in circulation, and the scarcity of Specie. By Sir Philip Francis, K. B. London, printed for J. Ridgway, No. 170, opposite old Bond-street, Picadilly, 1810.

THIS pamphlet, just published in London, having reached our hands, we hasten to present our readers with some interesting extracts from it. We prefer this mode of reviewing in the present instance to making many comments of our own. The author Sir Philip Francis is known as having taken an active lead in Indian politics, and as having preserved a fair character in a high station in that country. He pleads the infirmities of age as an excuse

for the defects of this attempt to inform the public. We discover none of the imbecilities of age, but perceive many marks of a vigorous mind actively engaged to promote the best interests of his country, in raising his warning voice against that system which appears rapidly leading to ruin.

He thus introduces his subject:

"It was said by William Earl of Chatham forty years ago, or somebody has recorded it for him, 'that it was a maxim he had observed through life, when he had lost his way, to stop short, lest, by proceeding without knowledge, and advancing from one false step to another, he should wind himself into an in-

extricable labyrinth, and never be able to recover the right road." He was naturally a brave man, and, by constantly holding a high language, accustomed his mind to keep company with generous principles and great ideas.

"Most men are ready to admit that plainness and simplicity are good moral qualities, and not at all unwilling to encourage them in others. But it is not so generally known or admitted, that these qualities, instructed by experience or enlightened by reflection, are the surest evidence of a sound understanding. A cunning rogue may cheat a wiser man of his money; but, in an abstract question, to be determined by judgment, it is not possible that skill and artifice can finally prevail over plain reason, which, in the ordinary transactions of life, is called common sense. If it were possible for me to personify the British nation, and if I were at liberty to offer my humble advice to so great a person, the first thing I should recommend to him would be to adopt the maxim of Lord Chatham, to stop for a moment, in order to take a general view of his situation with his own eyes, and to reflect on it himself. The first question I would urge to his consideration, as more immediately pressing, though not more important than many others, is, whether this kingdom, with many appearances to the contrary, be not essentially impoverished, and whether the causes of that effect be or be not in a state of progression. It is in vain to argue with any man, who professes to think that a circulation of paper, not convertible into specie, and which may be increased *ad libitum* by those who issue it, is as sure a sign of wealth as specie itself, or at least answers *all* the purposes of gold and silver, as it certainly does some of them. His principle, if he be in earnest, which I should very much doubt of any person in possession of his senses, would oblige him, in many other cases, to maintain that the shadow of a good thing is just as good as the substance; or that water, forced into the system, performs the functions of blood, with

equal effect and greater facility. With the help of tapping it might do so, as long as the stamina lasted. But, in these cases, the patient is apt to give the lie or the slip to the physician, and to die of a dropsy with the panacea in his bowels. He, who really suffers his mind to be amused with such fancies, has something to enjoy, and it would be cruel to undeceive him. But, in fact, there is no such person out of Befflam, except perhaps, on the coast of Angola, where, in former times at least, the honest Christian trader persuaded the infidel natives that cowries and glass beads would answer their purposes much better than gold or silver." In this way, they were converted out of their property, but not at all out of their infidelity.

"Paper undoubtedly is more convenient and manageable than coin; it executes many services much better and, as long as its credit is good, a reasonable circulation of it helps to promote and facilitate the operations of industry. But, with all its facilities as an agent, there is one condition essential to its value as a sign, namely, *security*. Take away that condition, and the value of a bank-note immediately becomes imaginary. It has no intrinsic value, and it represents nothing. Such paper may pass among ourselves by agreement, and we may coin as much of it as we please; but, so far from being a sign or effect of wealth, the increasing abundance of such paper, without specie existing and forth-coming to answer it, is a sure and indisputable evidence of immediate or approaching poverty. The first question to be considered is, what is become of the gold and silver, which, before the present war, were plentiful enough; and, if they are gone, whether, in the present course of things, there be any likelihood of their coming back again. Near two years ago, Mr. Baring gave us fair warning of our situation and its consequences. He truly said, "that this country then stood in the singular predicament of abandoning the general medium of circulation, gold and silver, for paper, which is of no value beyond its own limits."

Even then he told us, that "the precious metals had not increased in quantity in proportion to the depreciation of our nominal money, to furnish us the means of circulation." If that was the case two years ago, what must it be now, when we know that there is no bullion left, and that guineas are not to be found, unless they happen to be stopped in their way to the Continent; and when the expenditure, we have to provide for, is not much less than eighty millions a year? Of this expense, a very great proportion cannot be paid with paper, *videlicet*, your armies and garrisons abroad; your navy on foreign stations; subsidies to foreign courts, and many other expenses, such as the interest of the public debt held by foreigners at war with you, and estimated at seven hundred thousand pounds a year; besides the bullion, from six to eight hundred thousand pounds, exported annually by the East India company. All this amount must go in gold and silver, unless the favourable state of your trade with the Continent, and elsewhere, gives you a foreign credit, which may help to supply you with part of the sum wanted to answer these demands."

In the course of demonstrating the depreciation of bank notes, as evinced by the increased price of bullion, a subject often noticed in our commercial reports, he adduces the following forcible reasons.

"As long as bank notes, or paper securities of any other kind, were convertible into specie on demand, the value of such paper could not be depreciated otherwise than by the bankruptcy of those who issued it. But the case is quite altered, when the bank is exempted by law from paying their notes on demand, according to the fundamental condition of their charter *sine qua non*, and when the moral and lawful claims of creditor against debtor are dissolved by an act of power.

"When by agreement or otherwise, any two things are made the measure of each other, by a par settled between them, if one of them rises above that par, and the other sinks below it, the difference must be a premium on the first, and a discount

on the second. It matters not, whether this measure relates to coin and paper, or to corn and cloth. For example, suppose a yard of cloth and a bushel of wheat on a given day to be equal to each other reciprocally. If in a lapse of time, that equality should be lost, and if a yard of cloth should be valued at two bushels of wheat, it seems to me self-evident, that the cloth would be at a premium, and the corn at a discount of fifty per cent. in relation to each other. He who denies the truth of this proposition, will be bound to maintain that, if the price of gold were to rise to ten or twenty pounds an ounce in paper, the price of the said paper would not be diminished, which I conceive is the same thing as saying, that it would not be depreciated.

"Another short view of the question, or rather another form of putting it, I should imagine, would end it. Suppose the thing, which any man wants to buy, is banknotes, and that he has nothing to pay for them but gold. Yesterday his ounce of gold would only have bought four pounds in paper. To-day he can get five pounds of the same paper, with the same ounce of gold. Is the paper cheaper to-day by twenty-five per cent than it was yesterday? But cheap or dear, is measured by price, and if the price be so much lower, is, or is not the value so far reduced?

"Here this part of the subject may be dismissed, with one short memorandum to the reader, which he should for ever bear in mind, *viz.* that considering specie and paper as equally a medium of circulation, there is this essential and eternal difference between them, that paper, at best, can be nothing but a sign among ourselves; but that, by the common consent of mankind, gold and silver have an intrinsic value, and constitute a real pledge or deposit, as well as a sign; and though the price may accidentally vary, according to the quantity and the demand, still an intrinsic value adheres to the substance.

"They, who deny the depreciated value of paper in circulation, have a loose, vulgar way of talking, fit to

satisfy such careless people as the inert mass of the English consists of. It is said, with a triumph over arguments, which are not listened to, that as long as a one pound note and a Birmingham shilling will purchase as much beef and mutton, or any other commodity in the shops as a guinea, either of them is equal to the other, and consequently paper is not depreciated, at least among ourselves; for no man, I think, has the confidence to affirm, that the proposition would be true, if applied to our mercantile intercourse, or any other money-dealing with foreigners. If it were so, that is, if we were cunning enough to persuade a foreign creditor to receive bank notes in payment, then undoubtedly we might soon settle the score with him, as we do with many other creditors nearer home. As to internal circulation, it is true that he, who has but a few guineas left, may be compelled to part with them, though he gets no more for his guinea than he might for a note and a shilling; but first it is certain that all these rare straggling guineas, are shot flying, or caught up as fast as they appear, and either hoarded, or melted into ingots, or exported in specie — But would any man, Jew or Gentile, who possessed a thousand guineas, lend or pay them for £1050 in paper, while various ways are open to him, by which he may exchange them for the same paper, with a profit of fifteen or twenty per cent; and if he were so ill-advised or so generous, would not his thousand guineas be seized by other Jews or Gentiles, and go directly to the crucible? A Birmingham shilling may do as well for common change, as a shilling from the mint, if such a thing existed or ever came into sight, because in petty dealings, where the shilling changes hands every minute, a small shifting loss is not regarded; *nulla est de minimis cura*; or because we are willing to pay a light tax for a constant convenience; but not so when great payments are in question. For then we know the difference, and that it constitutes an object worth attending to. Would any debtor make a payment of £1050 in guineas, if, by melting the same guineas, he

could pay the debt, and put a hundred pounds worth of the circulating paper into his pocket? The case is just the same in purchase as in payment. If to buy a certain quantity of corn or cloth, he parts with a thousand new guineas instead of £1050 in bank-notes, I say he is cheated or he cheats himself; because the guineas are worth fifteen or twenty per cent more; which difference he might realize by melting or exporting them; and if he were resolved to forego that profit himself, somebody else would get it instead of him. The public would gain nothing by his forbearance. But what signifies arguing such questions, when we all know that there are no heavy guineas in common circulation, and very few even of those that have been 'most severely sweated?'

We have, on several occasions, endeavoured to show the fallacy of the attempts to represent our trade as in a most flourishing condition. We consider it as part of that system of delusion practised to hoodwink us, and keep us from seeing our danger.— We are happy to confirm our former assertions, by the authority of this author, in the following view of the vaunted commercial prosperity of Great Britain.

"I know it is stoutly asserted, that there never was any thing so flourishing as the foreign trade of England at this time; that our imports are considerable, but that they are exceeded by our exports to the amount of many millions, which it seems, find a rapid and profitable sale, wherever they are sent. Foreign markets are never glutted with English goods, and these goods are never sold under prime cost, to save or secure the freight; or left to perish on the beach, as I know they do at Heligoland, to an immense amount, particularly of colonial produce. A gentleman, very lately arrived from that fortunate island, assured me, that, from the beach to the stairs, he had walked up to his ankles in salted sugar and rotten coffee. Moreover it is stated to me, on the authority of a gentleman of unquestionable veracity, who arrived from the Brazils, within this month, that

British manufactures, of all sorts, particularly cloths, were sold there and at Buenos Ayres, when they could be sold at all, at 25 per cent under prime cost.

"A great importation of naval stores or other articles of necessity from the Baltic, and of corn or luxuries from France, of itself proves nothing, but that this country is so much in debt to the enemy, and then the question is, whether such import is balanced by an equal or greater exportation of our own commodities to France and Russia, or whether it be overpaid, which would create a credit in our favour, or in what other manner the account is settled. Now a true and satisfactory answer to that question, as I am told, will not be collected exactly from custom house statements; but as I am quite sure, may be safely and certainly derived from another test, which never did or can deceive us, and which for the purpose in hand, would make all official accounts unnecessary. Whenever we see the market price of bullion reduced to the level, at which gold and silver may be coined, we may be satisfied that there is no danger of wanting guineas and shillings for the uses of circulation, or any other, and to make that of paper perfectly safe, as well as convenient; and if we see the course of exchange, between this and other countries, materially in our favour, we may be equally sure that the trade with those countries is favourable to us, and that there must be an influx of real wealth into Britain. National prosperity proves itself. It may be felt and enjoyed but cannot be demonstrated. On that subject all other evidence is either fallacious or superfluous.

"But suppose the symptoms in this case to be notoriously reversed; if specie disappears, if the whole mass of gold, which prove the super-lucration of our trade, and which since his Majesty's accession has been coined into sixty millions sterling, be gone or going, and if bills on the rest of the world, or on Europe, are not to be had but at an exorbitant premium sufficient to make it the interest of the person, who wants to make a remittance, rather to send the amount

in specie, than to buy the bill;—cunning men may argue, and silly people may listen to them; but neither their arguments nor their documents, with which the plainest questions are sure to be overwhelmed and strangled, ought to have the weight of a feather against the facts. With a glut of paper intrinsically worth nothing, and representing nothing, you are going headlong into real beggary, while these people tell you that it is just the contrary, and that you never looked better in your life.

"Without attending to occasional fluctuations in the price of bullion, which if they are accidental, can only be temporary, what is the true cause of the scarcity of gold and silver in this or any other commercial country, supposing such scarcity to be progressive and likely to be permanent?

"If any country should constantly or for a great length of time, import more, for her own consumption, than she exports of her own commodities, the difference or balance of trade against her must be finally made good in specie or bullion. But this is only a part of the present case. In addition to the balance of trade, supposing that to be against us, the balance of all other money transactions with the rest of the world must be added to the commercial deficit. A great foreign expense can only be provided for in one of two ways: either, first, by a credit abroad, equal to all those expenses, which credit cannot be had otherwise than by a proportionate profit on your trade, and if that were the case now, there would be no occasion to export specie. Gold and silver would remain here *in statu quo*, and the bank of England would never have been under the necessity of stopping payment: or, secondly, you must pay the balance out of the existing wealth or substance of this kingdom. For these services, the foreign bullion goes first; then go the guineas; for as to silver coin, there is none, other than that of Birmingham, for common change, and lately a few dollars; and even of them there is no great plenty, though the bank say they have issued to the number of 4,317,634 since the year

1797, which shows that most of the old ones have taken wing, and will soon be followed by the rest. They are all alike birds of passage.

"Finally, the plate must follow the guineas, or you must stop short and stop payment; and then, I say, that in spite of bank-notes and paper circulation, or any agreement among ourselves to receive and pay in that sort of coin, and in spite of a grand sinking-fund into the bargain, the nation must be bankrupt, beggared, and undone, and that we are every day approximating to that conclusion."

We quote the following paragraph to show that the present prevailing infatuation has not been without example in former times. May the nation take warning in time! In the present day we have Madame Catalani and the foreign singers.

"In the last extremity, and when the facts stare us in the face, and the authors of all the mischief have no subterfuge left, they still have a triumphant way of talking *"well, where's the remedy? and what is your advice?"* as if it rested with the patient, whom they have reduced to the point of death, to cure himself; and indeed, if we cannot cure ourselves, there must ere long be an end of us. Now, without regarding any thing said by such people, the question they put is of too much importance not to deserve consideration. On the sober principles of plain reason, there is but one way of answering it. A nation, wasted by a dysentery, is no more to be cured by a charm or a *nostrum*, than a galloping consumption by a specific. You must totally change your system, and alter your course. The effect of a new regimen, supposing it adhered to, is in its nature slow, and furnishes at best only a reasonable probability of success. But if the patient can neither wait for the remedy, nor endure the disease, the case is desperate, and the less he thinks of it the better. In the plague of Athens, the few, who escaped the infection, determined to enjoy life while it lasted, and, in the midst of disease, desolation, and death, spent all they had left in banquets and festivals. They had singers

from Magna Græcia, and dancers from Gaul, who received an Attic talent, or 193½ *l*s. every month for their trouble, which in those times was reckoned a high salary."

In the present epidemic love of war, we fear the following just warnings will be disregarded.

"Some persons think that the bank should immediately be compelled to pay their notes in specie, on demand, as in strict justice they ought to do; but, in the first place, it may fairly be suspected that it is not in their power. In all probability, the guineas, they may still have in reserve, would not answer a tenth part of their notes in circulation, and, in the present state of things, whatever specie they issued would soon disappear. If, for example, they were to issue a million of guineas to-morrow, they would all vanish. Some would be hoarded, more would be melted, and all the rest be exported; and this must for ever be the case, as long as our expenses abroad far exceed our commercial credit with other nations; and if, in addition to those expenses, the balance of trade be also against us, it is fit we should be told, in plain terms, how those expenses and that balance are to be made good. Then what resource is left to save us from beggary? There is but one, if we have strength and stamina left to wait the effect of it. The nation must tread back its steps, and reverse its proceedings in the same path, which has brought it to its present decline. Stop your foreign expenses. Sell more than you buy; and then the wealth, that has left you, will gradually come back again. When the foreign account is against you, the gold and silver must go to balance it; when that balance is reversed, the gold and silver will return; but never till then, or by any other means. This is up-hill work I know, but this and nothing else can save us.

"A war of fifteen years continuance seems to have been quite long enough for an experiment, and might invite us to try whether it might not be possible for a commercial nation to breathe or float in another element.

G.C.

Not that I mind what is called the mercantile interest in the city. They are the loudest advocates of war, because they all gain by it more or less, though not at all in the true character of merchants. But, granted; war is no longer a calamity; or at worst it is a necessary evil, incident to the system. It is the physic and phlebotomy, that clears the intestines and opens the viens, and saves the body politic from bursting of a plethora. Agreed. It is fit, I suppose, because it always happens, that feeble reason should give way to vigorous insanity! But what sort of war do you mean now? What! still a Continental war! after the desolation and conquest of Spain, are we really so wicked and abandoned, as still to set up a sham defence of Portugal, for no conceivable purpose, but to bar that unfortunate country from some timely capitulation that might shelter it from the last of all human calamities, from being taken by assault, with no possible escape from conquest but emigration, nor even from utter destruction but in a hopeless appeal to the mercy of the sword?

"At all events you *must* put a stop to your foreign expenses. The nation not only bleeds from its arteries, but a considerable portion of its substance is poured into the hands of its enemies, and employed against you. You pay £700,000 a year to fill a sponge, which Buonaparte squeezes into his own treasury, whenever he pleases.

"Industry and economy, protected by peace, would gradually bring back gold and silver, without which, no nation, having a perpetual and unavoidable intercourse of dealing with the rest of the world, can be rich."

The following picture is unpleasant, but not unreal.

"I do not mean to deny that individuals in great numbers thrive by the prodigality of government, and fatten on the public spoil. The fact is sufficiently known, though little felt; because a very symptomatic insensibility to this and every other national concern, prevails more or less over the whole empire. The evil of the day is sufficient to occupy a degraded population, who, thinking of nothing but how to exist on any

terms; how to pay taxes, or how to evade them, gradually sink into indifference about every thing but the enjoyment or distress of the moment. *Pancem et Circenses.* As if we had converted our whole inheritance into an annuity, and had nothing but a life-interest in the salvation of the country. Even that base calculation may fail under the selfish being who trusts to it. No man, who is not superannuated already, can be sure that the thing he calls England, and by which he means nothing but the stocks, will survive even himself. Such apathy, wherever it prevails, is a sure forerunner of national baseness first, and then of ruin. The sensation of pain, is the providential warning against danger, the sentry or outpost, that gives notice of the approach of an enemy. The patient, who feels none, or who is suddenly relieved from it, or who by intoxication has deadened his senses, knows nothing of his own case, and dies of a mortification below, with a languid flush in his face that looks like a return of health. To reduce a nation to this state, many moral causes contribute; but practically none more than excessive taxation. Domestic difficulties depress the mind, and prepare it to look for relief, not in any energy of its own, but in some possible change of position, in the chapter of accidents, or in submitting with indifference to any change of power.

"Then comes the habit, which sooner or later forms the character. A constant inclination in a perverse direction will make a nation, as well as a plant, take an unnatural bent, until, by gradually weakening the spring that might redress it, they both grow downward with their own consent.

"With these objects in the mind, and all the consequences in view, it is difficult to refrain from adverting to the general state and actual conduct of public affairs. Believing, as I do, that some internal catastrophe hangs over us, which might possibly be averted or provided for by wisdom at the helm, but which ignorance and folly can only accelerate, I call on the nation to look at their government. Is it an abuse not to be endured, that any set of men, with no

other title or shelter but the word *prerogative*, should dare to hold and retain the executive power of the state, with a hundred peers protesting against them, without the confidence of the house of commons, and themselves on their trial at the bar of that house! At the public shame of such a sight, indignation sickens into scorn. Resentment dies of contempt. *Such authors of such ruin take away all dignity from distress, and make calamity ridiculous.*

"Still we are lulled with fine promises, and flattering prospects. Hope is a dangerous narcotic, and not only sets the mind asleep, but, like opium to the Turks, furnishes the brain with many delightful visions. Thus it is that a nation may walk in its sleep until it reaches the edge of a precipice without the power of turning back. These treacherous delusions are mortal symptoms. When nothing but a drastic resolution can save the patient, false hope supplies him

with palliatives, and bars the last extremity of its last resource, by the exclusion of despair.

"The history of France furnishes an example in point, on a great, but still on a very inferior scale. There never was a period of such extravagant expense and riotous profusion in Paris, as in the days that preceded the fall of the royal bank, in 1719. France was deluged with paper, as we are. Suddenly the credit of the bank failed. Down went the paper, down went Paris, and down went France."

We trust our readers will excuse us for giving such copious extracts. The subject is important. According to our estimation many erroneous conclusions are adopted, and there appears a systematic plan to dupe us into a favourable opinion of our situation. We adopt the unwelcome office of attempting to dissipate the illusion, and show things as they are without palliation, and without disguise.

K.

DISCOVERIES AND IMPROVEMENTS IN ARTS, MANUFACTURES, &c.

Patent of Mr. John Dumbell of Warrington, for a method of making a substance for spinning (resembling cotton) from flax, hemp or tow, and from shreds of cloth.

Dated August, 1808.

FLAX, and substances of this nature, are prepared for spinning in Mr. Dumbell's method, by cutting it into such short lengths as will render it fit to be spun on the same machinery used for spinning cotton: for which various instruments may be used, but Mr. Dumbell prefers the common machine called a chaff-cutter, which he enables to cut the flax better by putting straw or rushes under the flax, or by making the cutter very strong and thick, in order that the edge may not spring or give way, and causing it to act by moving in close and fair contact with a face of iron or steel, or other fit material. Other methods are mentioned for the same purpose; but as they seem too trifling to have

any considerable effect, they are here omitted.

In order to divide, and separate the vegetable fibres, when thus cut into short lengths, and to render it finer, and more soft and flexible, the Patentee then works the material, by pounding, crushing, beating or rolling, and by steeping, macerating, and digesting, boiling and bleaching, after which it is fit to spin on cotton machinery.

The Patentee operates on silk, wool, tow, and hemp in the same manner as on flax. He also mixes those materials in various ways to produce different articles of manufacture, and finds that the operation of spinning the prepared flax is much facilitated by a mixture of silk, cotton, or wool; and that the flax is rendered more fit for spinning, by subjecting the carded material to a strong pressure, with or without the application of heat, by presses, cylinders, or other instruments.

The Patentee produces a new material for spinning, from shreds of cloth, by cutting them first into stripes, and cutting them again into short pieces, and reducing them to a loose staple fit for spinning, by one or more of the mechanical operations before described.

Patent of Mr. James Barron of Wells-street, London, brass founder, for improvements in the apparatus used for rollers, for window-blinds, maps and other similar objects.

Dated Dec. 1809.

The novelty in these rollers consists in the mode of suspension, which is effected by two pieces of metal bent at right angles, one side of which is fastened to the suspending lath above, and the other side descends perpendicularly to sustain the roller. One of these bent pieces is a spring that draws the roller upwards when at rest, so as to bring its pulley into contact with the suspending lath and prevent its turning farther, by which means the blind remains stationary, at whatever position it is drawn down; the operation of drawing down the cord, causes the spring to descend sufficiently to disengage the pulley, and permit it to turn round freely; a wedge is placed beneath the spring in such a manner that by turning a screw it can be forced forward so as to make the spring stiffer when required. The other bent iron is attached to the lath by staples, along which it slides in the manner of a bolt, and is retained in its place by a spring catch; on disengaging which, it may be drawn out, and the roller be taken down from its place. Mr. Barron prefers conical sockets at the end of the bent pieces for the pivots of the rollers to turn in, as producing less friction.

Patent of Mr. George Pocock of Bristol, schoolmaster, for his invention of geographical slates for the construction of maps.

Dated June, 1808.

Mr. Pocock's invention consists in drawing and conducting lines of latitude and longitude, or other material geographical lines or projections, ac-

cording to the sort of maps required, on the slates commonly used in schools; which lines shall serve as guides to learners in geography to sketch the relative situations of the different parts and kingdoms of the world. To the specification a drawing is annexed of the lines proper for the Eastern and Western hemispheres, for one of those slates (which are the same as those in the common maps.) Slates for forming maps of the several quarters of the world, or any parts of it, are prepared with appropriate lines, according to the maps required. The method which Mr. Pocock prefers for drawing those lines; is, to mark first the longitudinal lines of the globe, on a thin piece of metal, and then to cut out the space between every second pair of them, leaving alternately solid and open spaces, till the hemisphere is finished; this plate will then serve as a ruler, by which the longitudinal lines may be drawn and indented on the slate, by a sharp pointed tool, or other proper instrument: the latitudinal lines may be made in the same way, by another plate cut out in a similar manner.

Account of Nautical inventions of Mr. R. Trevithick.

Phil. Mag. V. 34, p. 426.

Continued from p. 54.

Mr. Trevithick proposes two methods of moving ships by steam. The first consists of a revolving wheel furnished with leaves to lay hold of the water; which is placed in an air tight receptacle only open at bottom, in which the height that the water is permitted to rise (or the dip of the wheel) is perfectly under the command of an air pump, which as well as the wheel is worked by a steam engine.

In the second method, a wheel, or a sufficient portion of a wheel, to which an arm of considerable length is attached, receives an alternating motion from a rack on the piston rod of the steam engine. The arm just mentioned is employed to give motion to a valve, or valves, included in an hollow trunk or prism (attached to, or actually contained in the ship) placed longitudinally,

and made of a size suitable to the effect that is desired. Mr. Trevithick imagines that by confining the water by this trough from escaping laterally, the effect of the impulse of the valves will be greater than that of oars moving in the open sea, in which part of the force is lost in producing a lateral motion in the water, which escapes sideways: the Editor of the Philosophical Magazine expresses his preference of this Method to the first described.

If the hollow trunk, be made moveable and attached to the rowing arm, and there be a stop within of the nature of a valve, to shut against the stroke, and open with the return, the effect will be the same (in Mr. T's opinion) as that of the former arrangement, but the machinery would be more cumbersome, and apt to get out of repair.

Mr. Trevithick's next invention consists of

III Sliding tubular masts made of iron, so constructed that the upper masts may slide into the lower, like the tubes of a telescope.

An hollow iron mast of the thickness of half an inch, and of the same height and diameter as a wooden one will be much stronger and lighter, considerably more durable, less liable to be injured by shot, and can be easily repaired even at sea. One which will weigh 12 tons, and cost £540, at £45 per ton, will be one half stronger than a wooden mast of the same dimensions, which will weigh 28 tons, and cost near £1,200.

The iron mast is to be made to strike nearly as low as the deck, to ease the ship in a heavy sea. Wooden masts must in such circumstances be cut away. Ships furnished with these masts will not like others, be exposed to the risk of receiving damage from lightning. The iron mast being itself an excellent conductor, from which the communication to the water may be completed, by driving an iron bolt from beneath its bottom through the keelson and keel; and by his means the electric matter will be conducted through the bottom of the ship into the water, without doing any injury to the ship.

Yards and bowsprits may also be

made of wrought iron, with the same proportion of strength and expense as the mast. Chain shrouds and stays made of iron, may also be used with these masts, and will not cost half the expense of rope, while they will prove ten times more durable. For many other purposes in shipping, wrought iron employed as a substitute for the materials now in use, would have as great advantages as in the articles above mentioned, even the whole hull may be made of wrought iron.

Remarks.... Mr. Trevithick, is an ingenious self-taught artist, who has derived his knowledge from his own practice, and has not perhaps had leisure to study the sciences which relate to his profession of engineer, as accurately as perhaps he could wish himself. Some allowance may therefore be made to him for errors on the abstruse subject of impelling ships by power; which involves considerations of the law of motion, and of hydrostatics, and hydraulics, which are seldom the object of discussion, and are therefore to be known only by a minute study of those matters, which few attain: but certainly the Editor of the Philosophical Magazine, cannot claim the same indulgence;—and should therefore have been silent on points to which his knowledge did not extend; especially as the observations of the world on his plan (published in 1806) for extinguishing fires in ships, by fixed air from chalk and sulphuric acid, stowed aboard for this purpose, might have taught him the danger of getting out of his depth in venturing on the sea.

The first plan proposed by Mr. Trevithick for impelling ships, by a revolving wheel, is instead of being the worst of those proposed, as asserted in the Philosophical Magazine, the sole one which would have any efficacy, for neither of the others would give a ship any motion. To impel a body through, or on any single substance, an impulse must be made on that substance, by something proceeding from the body, the reaction on which gives the motion desired; it is evident therefore that it is only the manner in which this agent operates on

the external substance that can produce any re-acting effect, and that all its motions within the body are of no efficacy but as they modify its ultimate impulse on the external substance.—The long trough therefore attached to a ship, with valves moved through it, will have no effect in impelling the vessel, but from the impulse with which the water rushing from its extremity, acts on the surrounding sea; and as fluids moved through tubes experience resistance to motion, in a ratio increased in proportion to the velocity with which they are driven through them, the tubular apparatus therefore instead of enabling the last impulse at its extremity to be made with more velocity (and of course in this case with more efficacy) would diminish the effect of the first mover.

The other method of putting the whole trough in motion, would cause a greater loss of power in proportion to the weight of the trough. The loss of power in the method just described would be nearly equal to the weight of the water contained in the trough (which would needlessly in this way be put into motion). The loss in the last method would be the same, with the addition of that of the weight of the trough.

The subjects of the third section, are more within the reach of common observation, but of them only the proposal of the use of iron masts, has any novelty. In a note relative to the use of chain rigging, the Editor of the *Philosophical Magazine* states that the first proposal that he had ever heard of, for using metal rigging was from (himself) Mr. Tilloch, in 1801. *Philosophical Magazine*, vol. 21, p. 108; and that the idea of employing iron rigging has actually been carried into effect by lieutenant Brown; and that a vessel rigged in this manner, but with wooden masts, was in the West India dock in London, in January last. We know of no proposal for the plan earlier than that of Mr. Tilloch, but lieutenant Brown was not the first who took active steps for its introduction. In January, 1804, Mr John Slater, took a patent for forming the rigging and cables of ships of metal chains, the specification of which was published in the 8th vol.

of the *Repertory of Arts*. Another patent we have heard was taken out about two years ago for the same object, but do not recollect the name of the Patentee. There can however be no doubt of the advantage of the use of iron rigging in point of economy; and the strength and durability of chains have been so often tried, particularly in ploughing and drawing waggons, that it is surprising there should be so much difficulty in introducing them, for standing rigging at least, in ships. Chains have been long since used for cables, and have been found extremely serviceable, particularly in the West Indies: indeed there are few ships in which a chain cable would not be found most advantageous in saving the hemp cables on various occasions.

We cannot say so much in favour of the plan of hollow iron masts, cast iron would be unfit, both on account of its brittleness, if struck by a shot, and because it cannot be cast into pieces sufficiently long, to give longitudinal strength in an advantageous manner for masts. No method has yet been devised of rolling wrought iron into pieces of more than four or five feet long, or it would be employed in making steam engine boilers, in which the number of short pieces used is evidently injurious; and hammering and welding would be too expensive an operation for making masts. These objections relate to the fabrication, not to the plan, and in this point we think the greatest difficulties would occur: of the plan we have only to object to the short lengths in which the sliding masts are proposed to be formed which would make them very weak in proportion to the weight of metal used. Hollow masts though preferable for Merchant ships, are not so fit for vessels of war, the efficacy of a hollow mast depends on its cylindrical form, which gives the greatest strength for the least weight; but when it receives a wound from a shot, it ceases to be a perfect cylinder, and is then only a portion of a cylinder greater or less, as the wound is smaller or larger; and all that has been proved of the advantages of hollow cylindrical form, relate to the

perfect cylinder alone, not to its parts. It is evident the strength would decrease in a rapid ratio, as the segment of the cylinder was less; what that ratio would be, would take too much time to investigate now, but it is evident at once, that half a hollow cylinder, would have much less than half the strength of a whole one; and that a quarter would be still less strong, in proportion; and that the lesser segments would become still weaker and weaker, as the arch of which they consisted was flatter, or approached nearer to a plane plate. In the masts of men of war a very obvious saving may be made in reducing the length of the part which runs down into the hold; there can be no benefit in having them to descend below the orlop deck, at farthest; and strong uprights beneath them from thence to the keelson, would be fully adequate to support the weight above, which is the only purpose for which the part of the mast that goes below the orlop deck serves, and this it effects at an enormous expense.

As to making the whole hull of iron, which is the last plan proposed, it is no new idea, but it certainly deserves more attention than it has hitherto met. Many barges made of cast iron, and of wrought iron plates, we are informed by good authority, are now plying on the canals and rivers in different parts of England, where they are found to answer very well; but to form a ship of iron would require a combination of parts, and an internal framing very different from that of barges, and much thought and calculation would be necessary to devise these, of any adequate perfection. The chief difficulty in the execution would be in rolling plates of sufficient length to serve as planks, but plans for this purpose might no doubt be devised by the same ingenious artists, who have already overcome so many difficulties in the iron manufacture, and brought it to a state of perfection, perhaps superior to that of any other art. The chief benefit of iron ships, would be in their value, as old iron, when too old for farther service, and it is probable that for those of a very large size, for

which timber of adequate scantling is so extremely expensive, iron would be found considerably cheaper in the first instance, and would besides have the advantage of leaving no waste, as every particle of it not used, would be of value.

Method of preparing from bean stalks, a substitute for Hemp; by the Rev. James Hall, Wulhamston.

Rep. of Arts, v. 16, p. 219.

Mr. Hall has ascertained that every bean plant contains from 20 to 35 filaments running up on the outside under a thin membrane, from the root to the top; those at the four corners being rather thicker and stronger than the rest. Next to Chinese grass (used for connecting hooks to fishing lines) the fibres of the bean plant are among the strongest discovered. These with a little beating, rubbing, and shaking are easily separated from the strawy part, when the plant has been steeped 8 or 10 days in water, or when it is damp, and in a state approaching to fermentation, or what is commonly called rotting. Washing, and then pulling it through hackles, or iron combs, first coarse, and then finer, is necessary to the dressing of bean hemp; and appears to Mr. Hall, the easiest way of separating the filaments from the thin membrane which surrounds them.

From carefully observing the number of bean plants in a square yard, in various situations; and from weighing the hemp or filaments of a certain number of them, Mr. Hall calculates that every acre, of bean stalks produces about 2 cwt. of hemp.

He computes that there are 200,000 acres of beans planted annually in Great Britain and Ireland, which at the present rate of hemp, from 60 to £120 per ton, must produce a large profit to the proprietors, if it were collected from the beans, exclusive of the great national advantage of having a supply of hemp at home, when foreign markets for it are cut off, and the benefit it would afford in giving employment to the poor.

Mr. Hall exposed a parcel of the hemp nearly 12 months, to all the varieties of the air within doors, and

kept another parcel as long constantly under water, without either of them being in the least injured. The chief difference between them was, that the one kept constantly under water, had assumed a rich silky gloss, and a much more agreeable colour than it had before.

If bean straw be kept for years under water, or quite dry, it produces hemp as good and fresh as at first. But if it be sometimes wet, and sometimes dry the fibres are apt to be injured.

If the bean straw be exposed to the vicissitudes of the weather, spread thin on the ground, for two or three months, the hemp is easily separated from the strawy part, without any other process than merely beating, rubbing and shaking them: but then the fibres are more or less injured, though not so much as to prevent their being excellent materials for making paper.

When bean straw is to be steeped for the hemp, the beans are to be thrashed in a mill, and then to prevent the fibres from being injured, the beans should be put to the mill, not at right angles, but parallel to the rollers, or nearly so, otherwise the straw is apt to be much cut, particularly if it is very dry.

The bean straw contains a saccharine juice, and is highly nutritive, perhaps more so than any other, and like clover, the prunings of the vine, the loppings of the fig tree, &c. yields a rich infusion, which produces uncommonly fine table beer, as well as an excellent spirit by distillation. It is the hemp or fibres which prevents cattle from eating it. These, like hairs in human food, make cattle dislike it. Mr. Hall, at the end of his paper, takes into consideration other materials, which may be applied to the manufacture of paper, as well as that which he before proposed.—He states that about the generality of mills for beating and dressing hemp and flax, a large proportion, in some inland parts of Great Britain and Ireland amounting nearly to one half of what is carried thither, is either left to rot, under the name of refuse, or thrown away as of no use, because too rough and short for being spun,

and converted into cloth, even of the coarsest kind. This, on being beat and shaken, so as to separate the strawy part, becomes as soft and pliable as the longest, and is as fit for making paper. In its natural state this refuse is of a brown colour, but by the application of the bleaching acids, and lixiviums now universally known, it can in a few hours be made perfectly white.

To show the demand for paper, Mr. Hall gives the following curious calculation of the quantity of paper consumed annually in London, in newspapers. There are at a medium published in London, every morning 16000 newspapers, and every evening about 14000. The Sundays newspapers amount to about 25,000, and there are nearly 20,000 other weekly papers, making in all 245,000 per week. At a medium, twenty newspapers weigh one pound, hence the whole amounts to about three tons per week, or 260 tons per annum. But though this perhaps is not one half of the paper expended in London on periodical publications, and what may be called fugacious literature, and not one fourth part of what is consumed in other ways in printing houses, in the country at large, yet there are materials enough in the refuse of the hemp and flax raised in Britain and Ireland for all this.

Another plentiful supply of materials for paper may be had from the bine or straw of hops, which contains an excellent hemp fit for making many articles. And if even one half of the bine of hops, raised in Kent, Sussex, and Worcester, instead of being thrown away, or burnt, as is commonly done, was steeped in water for ten or twelve days, and beat in the same manner, as is done with hemp and flax (independent of what might be got from bean stalks, and a variety of other articles) there would be found materials enough annually, for three times the quantity of paper used in the British dominions.

Letters are added to this paper in testimony of the excellence of the samples of bean hemp, sent to the society of arts, &c. by Mr. Hall,

of their being the produce of bean stalks, and of the advantages which might be derived by the nation from encouraging the collection of hemp of this nature, and of its utility in the arts; of these letters the most remarkable are from Messrs. Houné and Alford, shoemakers, on the great strength of bean hemp, tried by them in sewing leather, and of the decided preference which they gave it to other hemp; and a letter from Mr. Davy to certify that he has tried the chemical agents in whitening bean hemp; that it bears bleaching very well, and that as to chemical properties, it differs very little from common hemp.

Mr. Davy also observes very properly, that the question, whether bean hemp is likely to be of useful application, is a mechanical one, and must be solved by experiments on its comparative strength.

The silver medal of the society for the encouragement of arts, &c. was given to Mr. Hall for this communication.

Remarks... We think till the mechanical experiments are made upon bean hemp, which Mr. Davy mentions, it would be premature to decide on its superiority to other kinds of hemp, and that Mr. Hall in doing so has not had sufficient foundation for his opinions. Nevertheless there can be little doubt, that it would answer nearly as well as other hemp for most purposes, and fully as well for making paper. The great impediment to its use will proceed from the expense of collecting it: only two hundred weight of it can be got from an acre of beans; which supposing that the straw amounts to but four tons per acre, will require forty times its weight of the bean straw, to be peeled and picked to produce it, besides other manual operations which it must undergo. Mr. Hall seems to be aware of the great proportion of labour it will require in its manipulation more than other hemp; but by a strange error of reasoning, he wishes to infer that this is rather a benefit, on account of the additional employment it will give to women and children, not

considering that mere labour in itself can be no advantage, and that it is worse than useless if its produce does not pay for the maintenance of those employed during the time consumed in it.

But supposing that at the present high price of hemp bean hemp would pay for its collection, it is a question whether it would be right to turn the labour of the country into a channel that could not be permanent, and whether it is not better to increase the quantity of common hemp raised at home, in the manufacture of which no loss could be sustained by a waste of labour.

On the quantity of labour, required to finish a given weight of bean hemp, experiments should be made, as well as on the points mentioned by Mr. Davy, before any decision should be made as to the advantage of its introduction; we are however induced to conjecture that the vast proportion of bean straw to the hemp produced, will remain an objection to its use, nearly insuperable.

Description of a new Cupping Instrument invented by Robert Healy esq. M.B. of Dublin.

This instrument consists of two parts, one is a cupping glass, made in the usual way with a short connecting pipe at its top, tapped with a screw of a coarse thread, by which it may be connected with the other part; which is a vessel (for producing a vacuum) of tin, or thin sheet copper, containing about half a pint, with a stop cock soldered to it, made to screw to the pipe of the cupping glass, and of which about a quarter or half an inch should extend within the vessel, for a purpose that will be mentioned.

The instrument is to be used in the following manner. The hollow vessel is to be unscrewed from the cupping glass, and a little air is to be drawn from it by the mouth, and the cock is then to be instantly turned to prevent the external air from rushing in. Ether or spirit of wine is to be placed in a glass, and the mouth of the stop cock being inverted into it, the cock is to be turned, and about a
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drachm of the liquor is to be let to ascend. The hollow vessel is next to be heated to convert the liquor into vapour, and as soon as the vapour has filled it, the stop cock must be closed, and it must then be immersed in a vessel of cold water.—A vacuum is thus produced by the condensation of the vapour, in proportion to the size of the vessel, in a few minutes. The cupping glass is then to be screwed to the stop cock, and placed over the wound made by a lancet or leech: and by adjusting the suction by the stop cock, a gradual or sudden flow of blood may be produced. If the hollow vessel be of large dimensions, and the patient complain of the suction, the cock must be closed and the blood be either permitted to flow into the glass, or one turn of the screw must be moved backwards, to admit the air to pass through the thread of the screw into the glass. The reason of extending the stop cock so far within the hollow vessel, is to prevent the liquid in the ball from passing into the cupping glass, when the stop cock is opened.

On the great effect of Magnesia on calculary concretions, ascertained by Mr. Brande, at the suggestion of Mr. Hatchet.

At a meeting of the Royal Society, held on the 1st and 8th of February, a paper on uric acid, by Mr. Brande, communicated by the society for improving animal chemistry, was read. The author related the effects of the alkalis, and lime on the uric acid, and phosphats, in patients labouring under the influence of calculi, but in none of the cases which he stated were they successful in giving relief or curing disease.

Magnesia however had the desired effect, and brought off in the urine great quantities of uric acid and phosphats, in the form of triple salts. The discharge of these salts, after taking small doses of magnesia, was so copious, that the patients were radically or effectually cured in a few weeks.

The suggestion to use magnesia, was made by Mr. Hatchet (a gentleman well known for his great chemical abilities) who declared that of

all substances it was the most likely to act on the uric acid, and experience has thus confirmed his conclusions, in the strongest manner.

Remark... This discovery is an additional proof to the many others, which have occurred of late years, of the advantage of chemical researches, and is highly creditable both to Mr. Hatchet who suggested, and to Mr. Brande who proved the fact. It is highly probable that the same medicine may be useful in the gout also, as this complaint is known to proceed from concretions of a similar nature to those which it removes.

The importance of the discovery, and the relief it may afford to numerous sufferers under the diseases which it may relieve, renders it a duty to make it as public as possible. We do not pretend to meddle with the medical department in general, but when an application of chemistry occurs so likely to be beneficial, it should not be rejected from our pages, because it related to a peculiar line of science.

The discovery appears of the greater authenticity from its receiving in some degree the sanction of the Royal Society, to whom it would not have been communicated, it is probable, if it had not received sufficient proof to satisfy Mr. Brande of its efficacy. The name of Mr. Hatchet also, with whom it originated, adds great weight to its probable value.

In the countries where poor wines, cyder, and stale malt liquors are the common beverage of the people, the complaints above-mentioned are much more common than in those where spirits and water are more used, as is the case in Ireland and Scotland. But the great danger of using this latter drink, is, that it will be made stronger than what is fit, when its constant use will occasion diseases equally distressing, though of a different nature. And although these countries are more free from the complaints alluded to than the others, yet the number of sufferers are sufficiently great to render the discovery of the utmost importance here as well as elsewhere.

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MONTHLY RETROSPECT OF POLITICS.

NOTHING of much importance has lately occurred in the political state of Europe, but an event is about taking place, which may have a mighty influence on its affairs, and effect changes therein, at present very little contemplated. We allude to the marriage of Napoleon with the Archduchess Maria Louisa of Austria; a theme which almost exclusively engages the attention of the Continent. This marriage bears evident marks of that characteristic sagacity, which has conducted Bonaparte to his present elevation: he was secure without it, his power was consolidated, and no nation within his reach, dared to counteract his views; but this promises to transmit these important advantages to his posterity, and continue to France the same preponderance to which his genius has advanced her. By this alliance, Austria without dreading his ambition will cordially assist in annihilating the Turkish empire; Poland will be moulded agreeably to their joint wishes, and the *ex-dévant* royal family of Spain, will sink into that oblivion, which their incapacity has so richly merited. Bonaparte has never shown greater disregard to his political friendships than other powerful individ-

uals, yet we think the interest of Alexander will now yield to that of Francis, and after the autocrat has been used to accomplish their purposes, pretexts will not be wanting, if they find it expedient, to reduce the power of that immense and unwieldy empire.

When we revert to this country, his designs against our prosperity will be much facilitated by his imperial relative; the hearty co-operation of Austria, Russia, and France, will be infinitely more injurious to our commerce, than when any one of the three found it convenient to wink at the exertions made to introduce our manufactures into their dominions; and will place our Indian territories in a more precarious and dangerous situation than they have ever been since we first obtained a footing in that country.

Should the war continue, threats of invasion will not be bombastically renewed, as when they were without probability of being executed; when a powerful enemy remained constantly on the watch, eager to embrace the opportunity of a reverse, or even the absence of a considerable body of troops beyond the possibility of recall, to revenge the humiliation of defeat

still rankling in his breast ; but the plan of invasion will now be engaged in, in good earnest ; it will be the object of Bonaparte's solicitude ; he will lodge it near his heart ; it will be matured with the wisdom which distinguishes his schemes, and executed with all the energy of his character. This is a serious subject : dissertations on the crimes and perfidy of Bonaparte and the obscurity of his family are absurd, and the daily comments we hear of the meanness of Kings and Emperors who solicit his alliance are worse than trifling ; they reflect dishonour upon us as a nation, and as individuals bring our courage and generosity into question ; but here is a subject should recal us to our senses ; should induce moderation among the contending parties in the empire, and make them only solicitous about measures to ward off the impending danger, and replace us in that state of proud security which we enjoyed at no very remote period of our history.

Surely the love of country is not extinguished in our bosoms, nor the love of independence, without which country is nothing ; but it is nearly choaked by plants of evil growth—intolerance, jealousy of power, and private interest, have over-run the finest soil and rendered it unfaithful to the labours of the husbandman. We would earnestly inculcate unanimity as the only hope of safety for us as a nation, but we know that this cannot take place unless proper means are employed to produce it. *Necessity* should now occasion these means to be employed ; there is no time to lose : Spain and Portugal will soon be as actively instrumental in annoying us as Russia and Austria, and as the capacity of offence is awfully increasing against us, so we should multiply and cling to all those measures of security that are still in our own power. Bonaparte is well aware, and we cannot conceal from ourselves, that the weak part of our defence is Ireland—a most absurd policy, that cannot distinguish nor take advantage of circumstances, has made Ireland *at this day* the weakest part of the empire ! Ireland ! that thirty years ago even

left to herself would have defied the world. We then tasted the sweets of union amongst ourselves, and bold would have been that Prince who would seriously have attempted invasion. Are these times never to return ? alas ! the nation sprang at once from infancy to manhood, and a premature old age has already bowed her to the earth. We can hardly hope again to see the energies of the nation rise to such an eminence ; a crooked policy that we have groaned under for centuries has succeeded in re-introducing the demon of discord, and made ourselves the engines for perpetuating our own misery. It is the duty of England now to interpose, and make reparation for the wrongs she may have involuntarily inflicted. Let her now fight the battles of reform and give us a full participation of the benefits she may acquire. Let her allay our irritations, remove our discontents, and introduce us to the full enjoyment of her justly boasted constitution.—If she refuse these equitable conditions, Providence by a most just retribution may visit upon her some of the evils we have formerly suffered by allowing us first to fall and drag her into the same degradation, and as her advantages have been greater, so will the reverse she may suffer be proportionably more poignant.

The present session of parliament appears to produce but little to interest the public mind. Whether the little good effects consequent on former inquiries, have damped the public expectation, or whether the shutting of the gallery of the house of commons, has diminished the interest, by preventing the public from knowing the manner, in which it is conducted, and bringing into view the actors in this inquiry, it is certain that little interest is taken by many, and few hopes are raised of any good end being effectually promoted. Yet, although upon the whole the inquiry is likely to produce little redress, yet some incidental circumstances have occurred, which deserve to be noticed. Charles Yorke, the member, who by moving the standing order, shut the people out from the house of their representatives,

having as the wages of supporting the minister, received a snug sinecure of £2700 a year, and being obliged to vacate his seat, has received a severe practical rebuke from his former constituents, the freeholders of Cambridgeshire, who refused to return him again to parliament, at once giving an instance of public spirit, and a good caution to representatives not to encroach on the privileges of the people. We hear much of the privileges of the commons, but let us recollect that these privileges were originally claimed to guard against the power of the prerogative of the crown, but now the privilege of parliament, and the prerogative of the crown, frequently are conjoined; if any occasion seems to require their assumption, a host of advocates start up to support them, while few watchfully attend to the privileges of the people, in the broad comprehensive sense of the word.

Another circumstance which arose out of the inquiry, is the committing of John Gale Jones, to Newgate, for a supposed attack on the privilege of the commons, by the authority of the house, because he as proprietor of the British Forum, a debating society, who assemble weekly and discuss subjects of politics, and sometimes of theology, had published an advertisement, stating that a discussion would take place on a certain night, on the shutting of the gallery, and the consequent supposed attack on the liberty of the press. Charles Yorke complained to the house of a breach of privilege, and Jones was committed to Newgate. Sir Francis Burdett, brought the subject before the house, and pleaded that the practice of committing by their authority persons, who were not members of their house, was a violation of the rights of the people. Fourteen members only, supported a motion to this effect, though several expressed their willingness to release him, if he would send in a supplicating, humble petition. John Gale Jones, refuses to comply, or to compromise what he considers his rights.*

* The following letter from him to Sir Francis Burdett, explains his motives:

The Earl of Chatham has also been forced to resign, in consequence of his having secretly and unofficially presented a memorial to the king, in which he made insinuations against Sir Richard Strachan and the navy, as to their co operation in the attack on Holland. The navy being peculiarly the favourites of the people, a great clamour arose on account of such disingenuous conduct, and to appease the storm, the Earl of Chatham resigned his place at the ordnance. Thus we have another proof of the little bond of union between the disjointed members of a disjointed cabinet. One after another resigns, and they are given up without much apparent regret by their colleagues, while a few who seem objects of peculiar favour, retain their places, notwithstanding they are frequently in a minority in the house of

TO SIR FRANCIS BURDETT, BART.

SIR,

I request permission to offer the tribute of my unfeigned thanks for your most able, legal, constitutional, unanswerable, and unanswered defence of the rights and liberties of the people, which you are of opinion, have been violated in my person. So strongly fortified in my mind, by the authority of your judgment; so fully assured am I that no Englishman can sustain any wrong, without having some remedy, that I am firmly convinced the house of commons never had, nor could have, the privilege of exercising the power of passing sentence of imprisonment upon any person, not a member of its own body, whilst the common law, Magna Charta, the Petition of Right, the Bill of Rights, the act of Habeas Corpus, and the act of Settlement, are the unrepealed laws of the land. Therefore I will never so far degrade my character, as humbly to petition for my liberty, which I boldly claim as my right.

"Forgiveness to the injur'd doth belong;
They never can forgive who do the wrong."

Nor will I, "from slavish fear, or private policy," compromise the liberty of my fellow-subjects, by allowing a precedent to be drawn from my acquiescence, which though it may relieve my weakly frame from a prison, must plant a sting for ever in my mind—I have the honour to be, sir, with the highest respect, your most humble servant,
JOHN GALE JONES.
Stable side of Newgate, March 13, 1810.

commons, and the general voice of the people is against them.

One most important fact has been disclosed in the course of the inquiry into the expedition to the Scheldt, the extreme bad management in the medical department. The members of that board received high salaries, but in the moment when actual services were required, an almost total want of preparation was found. To use their own phrases, ministers *moved* one another to *move* the inferior officers to *move* the medical board to *move* others, to *move* off a sufficient number of surgeons to the relief of the British army, suffering from the intermittent fever, in the marshes of Walcheren. Notwithstanding all this mechanical *moving without exertion*, a most shameful delay took place, and the sufferings of the poor soldiers were thus greatly increased. It is a sorrowful fact, that through all the departments, from the highest to the lowest, from the chief minister to the surgeon's mate, private emolument, is too generally the governing principle. We see little spirited conscientious performance of duty, arising from fixed principle, but either entire neglect, or a dry unanimated routine of mere official duty. There wants that animating soul, that lively energy which PRINCIPLE alone can communicate; and hence feebleness characterizes all our public movements, and runs through the entire system. The multitude pass on unconcerned, each as far as he can, eager to partake of the general spoil, on the great, or the little scale, according to his respective situation; but to the reflecting mind these are portentous omens, and raise a fear that they are "the foul fore-runners of a general rot."

We give among the documents Montagu Burgoyne's address to the freeholders of Essex, after the termination of the election, in which he was unsuccessful, in his novel, but highly praiseworthy attempt, to interest the people in their own cause, and induce them to return their representatives free of expense, that not having *bought*, they should have no pretext for *selling* their constituents. If a spirit of independence could

thus be roused in the people, to exercise the elective franchise, in this manner, the purity of the electors must have a powerful effect on the representatives, and most materially tend to give a different direction to the connexion between the electors and the representatives. At present the bond of connexion between them is very small, the body of freeholders are scarcely known, but as part and parcel of some great man's estate; according to the alteration proposed, each elector going at his own expense, would rise in consequence in the political scale, and that mighty evil, the enormous expense of contested elections, and the consequent scenes of drunkenness and riot would be removed.

We annex the petition of the English Catholics, and the Irish Catholics as respectively presented to the house of commons, together with the resolutions of the Catholic Bishops of Ireland. They furnish subject for much interesting reflection.

The Catholics have long been in a state of proscription in these countries, contrary to the principles of justice and sound policy. They have proved themselves capable of being good subjects and peaceable citizens. Speculative points of theology have little influence on conduct, and the state ought to have no authority over opinions, for actions only are cognizable by human laws. Therefore we have uniformly expressed our decided opinion, that complete emancipation is their right. This is our confirmed judgment, independently of any regard to the truth or errors of their doctrines. On those points, the government and their fellow citizens have no right to interfere. Some writers in advocating their cause have suffered themselves to be drawn into an attack or defence of their principles. Some have adduced antiquity in their favour, and pleaded for venerable ruins, and the ancient ivy. Others without this flourish of rhetoric, have told us, that within 300 years all our ancestors were Catholics. Nothing is proved by such a mode of argumentation. Let us go back one thousand years more, and our ancestors were probably Pagans.

Dr. Milner a celebrated bishop of the Catholic communion combats the idea of a merely hereditary religion, and in a Sermon he has lately published, thus expresses himself. "Many choose their religion, as they choose their cloaths, from mere fancy. Still more adhere to the religion of their family; because it is that of their family; which motive, if it were a reasonable one, ought to have determined our Pagan ancestors to persevere in the horrid rights of Thor and Woden still."

The petitioners are firm and moderate in their manner of asking, and state the grievances, under which they labour in both countries, and ask for full redress. The resolutions of the Catholic bishops deserve attention—If the first savours too much of a fondness to assume ecclesiastical power, when they state that it is their undoubted and exclusive right to discuss all matters appertaining to the doctrines and discipline of their church, and thus exclude laymen from any participation of power; they are entitled to much praise for their 5th resolution. "That we neither seek nor desire any other earthly consideration for our spiritual ministry, to our respective flocks, save what they may from a sense of religion and duty afford us."

They thus virtually refuse to accept a *regium donum*, or royal bounty; whether this offer has already been only hinted to them, or whether it has been actually made. In either case they are deserving of credit for their declaration.

We are pleased to see that Henry Grattan discovered manly sentiments on presenting the petition of the Irish Catholics. He does not, like Lords Grenville and Grey, ask for an increase to the power of the crown, by investing the minister of the day, with a power of a veto on the nomination of their bishops. He only asks that there should be a Catholic hierarchy in Ireland, independent of foreign influence, which considering the Pope's present state of subjection, appears only a necessary precaution, and if rightly considered does not trench on any of the canons of the Catholic church. We there-

fore hope, it is not inconsistent with the consciences of our brethren of that persuasion. We are so strong advocates for unlimited liberty of conscience, that we would ask for no security in opposition with its dictates. But if they can comply without violating their consciences, we should rejoice to see them act independently of the Pope and of the crown in electing their bishops.

Prejudices in favour of long established institutions, which have been unjust and tyrannical are wearing away. The house of the inquisition at Valladolid lately took fire, as it appears by accident. The people refused to assist in extinguishing it, and the building was left to its fate to be consumed. We willingly accept of this omen as indicating the temper of the times, and hope that the undue authority over the consciences of men, however, or wherever exerted, will soon share the fate of this, one of its temples, at Valladolid. The Spanish nation have no wish to return under the yoke of the inquisition.

On the subject of public economy there has been much talk in the house of commons, in consequence of some resolutions grounded on the reports of the committee of finance. The debate is adjourned for two weeks when the talk will be again resumed. We are not sanguine in our expectations of any effectual measures being adopted. Reform is an unfashionable phrase, yet an ex-minister—Huskisson has declared that without retrenchment the public business cannot proceed. After such a declaration from one acquainted with the affairs behind the scenes, the representatives of the nation must look to our situation, if they honestly discharge their trust.

We are pleased to see that Mr. Sheridan has again come forward to vindicate the freedom and respectability of the press against an illiberal by-law of the Benchers of Lincoln's Inn, which prescribed that no person who shall have written for a newspaper for hire, shall be entitled to be qualified for becoming a member of their society. The intention of this by-law was to exclude the junior members of the profession of the law.

who might seek for useful and laudable employment in acting as reporters of parliamentary debates for the newspapers. The law was generally condemned, and it was understood that the society would repeal it; under this supposition, the motion was withdrawn. Mr. Windham closed the gallery on the occasion, unmindful or regardless of the manner in which the freeholders of Cambridgeshire have treated his late colleague. It is an honorable occupation of time and talents, thus to furnish the public with authentic accounts of the proceedings of parliament. No one need to be ashamed at being thus employed. Dr. Johnson and the celebrated Burke were formerly reporters. Mr. Stephen at present a member of the house, with manly candour avowed that he was himself in the early part of his study at the bar, a reporter, in company with other respectable persons, some of whom had since risen into eminence in their profession, but who would have been thwarted in their fair prospects had this illiberal regulation formerly existed. We hope this discussion will produce good effects, and that the caterers for the public finding the hand of power directed against them, will look for support to the spirit of freedom, which yet exists in the nation, and which may be expected to afford ample recompence for a faithful discharge of duty. We have often expressed a jealousy that the press was too much attached to the side of power. We cherish a hope of seeing its agents hence forward more honourably advocating the cause of the people.

In a review of our domestic situation some occurrences at the late assizes for the county of Antrim, at Carrickfergus, are deserving of notice in a moral, and political point of view. An account of the trials of the most interest are given among the domestic occurrences, at page 231.

A calendar of unexampled magnitude showed the existing depravity of morals. From picking pockets, and shop-lifting, to robbery and murder in its most aggravated forms, crimes committed by persons of both sexes, and of all ages, from children of 12

or 13 years of age, who could scarcely be seen over the dock when standing at the bar, to old people of 60 and 70 years of age, mostly all exhibiting marks of incorrigible depravity, afforded altogether a most melancholy spectacle. There might be seen

“—The pigmy rapine, whose invasions vex
The private scene, that hides his head
minute

From human justice—
And there, the Titan crimes that lift to
Heav’n
Their blushless fronts, and laugh at human
laws.”

One predominating idea occurred, that many of the desperate inveterate cases might have been cured by a timely exertion of a correcting police, and that many of the young, whom we now see confined for smaller crimes, are rapidly advancing in that career of vice, and towards that maturity of wickedness, which will fit them for the perpetration of the greatest enormities. But, alas! our correctional police is feeble indeed. A large proportion of our revenue is drawn from the debaucheries of the people. Many of our laws are too severe for the occasion, and this severity defeats its own purpose, by the operation of that principle of humanity in the nature of man, which inclines to mercy, and pleads strongly against all severity of punishment which is not strictly called for by imperious necessity. How many might have been reclaimed by timely care, and by a vigilant, but mild execution of the laws, who are now suffered to escape time after time, till they become hardened in vice, and

“—till at last
Society grown weary of the load
Shakes her incumbent’d lap, and casts
them out.”

Cowper justly traces these direful effects to that bane of good morals the public houses, where

“—Through city, or through town,
Village or hamlet of this merry land,
Though leary and beggard every twentieth
part,
Conducts the unguarded nose to such a
whiff,
Of stale debauch forth issuing from the
pipes,

That law has been'd, that makes temperance reel!"

It is especially worthy of remark that in every case of the four convictions, which took place for manslaughter, and two of them were very little short of actual murder, all the parties, as well as the three men killed, were drunk, and thus had their passions inflamed beyond the government of reason. Such are the shocking effects of this vice that it facilitates the commission of all other crimes: and yet our Irish legislators to please the landed interest, and keep up the price of land, and for the sake of revenue are giving a further temptation to the increase of vice, by permitting distillation and lowering the duty on spirits. Drunkenness is a wide spreading evil, and too generally pervades all ranks. It is not exclusively the vice of the poor, many of the higher and middle ranks show them a bad example, and in such a case have no right to complain of the brawls of the poor in the street and in the whiskey shops, while they themselves are guilty of intemperance though in a more private manner. It is a mistaken opinion that sociability is increased by computations, and it would materially improve our manners, if our social intercourse were kept up without the instrumentality of drinking, and that men might meet and converse, without estimating their joys by the number of glasses "decanted o'er their palate." Hector Mac Neill, in his commendable zeal to reform his countrymen, by his pathetic tale of Will and Jean, endeavours to promote a chaster taste, and reproves a brother poet who, with all his genius, corrupted himself, and debauched his countrymen by his licentious songs,

"Robin Burns is mony a ditty,
Loudly sings in whiskey's praise,
Sweet his sang! the mair's the pity
E'er on it he waur'd sic lays,
O' a' the ills, poor Caledonia,
E'er yet pre'd or e'er will taste,
Brewed in hell's black Pandemonia;
Whiskey's ills will scath her maist!"

These lines applied to Ireland are no less forcibly expressive.
We trust these remarks are not

misplaced in a political retrospect. It is within the department of a political writer to mount up to the consideration of moral causes, and of their influence on the occurrences of the day, to investigate deeply, and to probe our moral evils with a steady and unsparing hand. Great causes arise from small beginnings, and the happiness and prosperity of a state or an individual can only be stably built on the basis of public and private virtue.

It affords much satisfaction to mention that the workhouse, a recent institution in Belfast, is acquiring a state, that promises to render it a permanent and highly useful establishment. In our next number it is intended to give the rules and regulations lately agreed on at a general meeting. We trust that this establishment will tend to counteract vice, and lessen the present mighty aggregate of evil.

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

ADDRESS OF MONTAGU BURGVOYNE, ESQ.

To the Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders of the county of Essex.

GENTLEMEN,

To the eight hundred and eleven independent Freeholders who have supported me, I return my warmest thanks; to those who have opposed me, some of them not by the most justifiable means, I offer good will and forgiveness; and to those, who, on account of ambitious views, and private friendship, have remained neuter, though they approve of my political principles, I submit my advice that they would in future feel for their country, and exercise their franchises in support of their opinions.

Under all circumstances, I assert that my defeat is in truth a triumph. I have manifested under every discouragement some firmness and perseverance, in giving an example which I hope will be followed throughout the United Kingdom at the next general election. I have faithfully observed my engagements, and shewn, that wealth is not necessary for a candidate, and that the freeholders of counties have still the power to choose their own representatives, I wish I could add, that all those who have talked the most of independence have had the courage to exercise it.

Powerful have been the means employed to influence and terrify; and after

your elective franchises lying dormant forty years, in consequence of the compromise which has disgraced this country, it could not be expected that the spirit of independence should be at once as conspicuous with us as it is in the neighbouring county of Kent. However, the foundation is laid, and the best return that I can make for your favour, is to continue to support this constitutional work.

Mr. Houbian has no reason to boast of his majority; his return is owing to the disunion of his enemies, not to the strength of his friends. A third of the freeholders have not polled; the leading Whig interest have not moved; hundreds of my friends did not give me their votes, because they thought there was no chance of overtaking my opponent.

An exposure of some of the instances of influence and tyranny which have been exercised will be my first object. If they do not deter the enemies of your independence from such venal practices in future, they will, I hope, encourage you to resist them, and teach you that your country is your surest party and your best friend.

I am, gentlemen, your faithful friend and obliged servant,

MONTAGU BURGOYNE.

Chelmsford, Feb. 17.

ENGLISH ROMAN CATHOLIC PETITION.

To the honourable the commons of the united kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in parliament assembled:

We, whose names are underwritten, Roman Catholics of England, humbly beg leave to represent to your honourable house—

That at the time of his majesty's accession to the throne, the laws in force against his English Roman Catholic subjects, deprived them of most of the rights of Englishmen, and of several of the common rights of mankind.

That by the acts of the 18th and 31st years of his majesty's reign, several of the penalties and disabilities under which the English Roman Catholics laboured were removed:

That the English Roman Catholics are most grateful for the relief granted by these acts, and have taken and subscribed the oaths and declarations contained in them:

That their conduct hath been conformable to their professions; in peaceable submission to the laws, and in the discharge of moral or civil duty, they have not been exceeded by any of his majesty's subjects; they have served him effectively and honourably in his

fleets and armies; there never has been a call upon Englishmen to do their duty, which the English Roman Catholics have not been forward to answer:

That several penal and disabling laws are yet in force against them; they are not equally entitled with their fellow subjects to vote at the election of any member of your honourable house; they are excluded from a seat in either houses of parliament; they are not admissible into corporations; every civil and military office is denied them; every laudable object of ambition, all that elevates a man among his fellow subjects—all hopes of public distinction—all means of attracting the notice of their country, or the favour of their sovereign, are placed without their reach.

The more they deserve of their country the more sensibly their country makes them feel this exclusion. In the ranks she suffers them to fight her battles, but to them victory is without its reward, promotion is wholly denied them; no services can advance, no merit enable them to profit of their country's favour.

Even in their humble situation of private soldiers, the law follows them with pains and penalties. By the articles of war, if soldiers refuse to attend the religious worship of the established church, they are punishable by fine, imprisonment and death. Thus the Catholic soldiers are incessantly exposed to the cruel alternative of either making a sacrifice of their religion, or incurring the extreme of legal punishment, than which your petitioners humbly conceive, there never has been, and cannot be a more direct religious persecution. To an alternative equally oppressive, the English Roman Catholics are exposed on their marriages; the law requires for the legal validity of a marriage in England, that it should be celebrated in a parish church. As Roman Catholics believe marriage to be a sacrament, the English Roman Catholics naturally feel great repugnance to a celebration of their marriages in other churches than their own.

They are cruelly debarred from any means which their fellow subjects possess of providing for their families, by employments of honour or emolument; so that while they bear their full share of the general contribution to the wants of the state, they are denied even a hope of participating in those advantages, by which the burthen of their fellow subjects is alleviated.

In other occurrences of life the law has the same humiliating and depressing

operation on your petitioners. Thus every Roman Catholic subject of his majesty, is forced below his fair line in society, and the general body is a marked and insulated cast.

Yet the Roman Catholics form more than one fourth of the whole mass of the subjects of the united empire. Whatever there is of genius, of talent, or of energy among them, is absolutely lost for public use; and this at a time when the united empire is engaged in a conflict formidable beyond example, and it therefore seems important, if not essential to her preservation, that she could call into action, without qualification, or limit, or any religious test, or declaration, the genius, talents, and energies of all her subjects.

It is true, that your petitioners profess some religious principles which are not professed by the established church, and to this, and to this only, their refusal of certain tests, oaths, and declarations is owing, which subjects them to the pains and disabilities they complain of, but none of the principles, which occasion their refusal, affects their moral, civil, or political integrity; and your petitioners humbly submit to this honourable house, that no principle which leaves moral or political integrity unimpaired, is a proper object of religious persecution; besides, the whole creed of your petitioners was once the creed of the three kingdoms; it is the actual creed of four-fifths of Ireland, and of much the greater part of Europe. It was the creed of those who founded British liberty at Runnymede, who conquered at Cressy, Poitiers, and Agincourt; among those who repelled and annihilated the Spanish Armada, none bore a nobler part than those by whom this creed was professed. In all these achievements, in every other scene, in which the ancient valour or ancient wisdom of this country has been displayed, the ancestors of several of your petitioners have been distinguished, their creed did not lessen their zeal for their king and country—it does not lessen that of their descendants.

Every disloyal or immoral principle which malice or credulity has imputed to them, your petitioners have solemnly and repeatedly disclaimed. They believe there does not now exist an honourable man who imputes these principles to them; they have sworn to be faithful and bear true allegiance to his majesty, and have acted up to their professions; they most confidently appeal to this honourable house, and to the whole empire, whether in loyalty to

his majesty, attachment to the constitution, or zeal for their country's good they are not equal, and are not known and acknowledged to be equal to his majesty's other subjects.

Therefore, conscious of the truth of these representations, and with the most perfect reliance on the wisdom and justice of your honourable house,

Your petitioners humbly pray for a total repeal of every test, oath, declaration, or provision, which has the effect of subjecting your petitioners to any penalty or disability whatsoever, on account of their religious principles.

PETITION OF THE CATHOLICS OF IRELAND.

(PRESENTED TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS)

To the honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled.

"We whose names are hereunto subscribed on behalf of ourselves and of others his majesty's subjects, professing the Roman Catholic Religion in Ireland, humbly beg leave to represent to this honourable house,

"That we, your petitioners, did in the years 1805 and 1808, humbly petition this honourable house, praying the total abolition of the penal laws which aggrieve the Catholics of Ireland.

"We now feel ourselves obliged in justice to ourselves, our families, and our country, once more to solicit the attention of this honourable house to the subject of our said petition.

"We state that the Roman Catholics constitute the most numerous and increasing portion of the inhabitants of Ireland; comprising an immense majority of the manufacturing, trading and agricultural interests, and amounting to at least four-fifths of the Irish population, that they contribute largely to the exigencies of their country, civil and military, that they pay the far greater part of the public and local taxes, that they supply the armies and navies of this empire with upwards of one-third part in number of the soldiers and sailors employed in the public service, and that notwithstanding heavy discouragements, they form the principal constituent part of the strength, wealth and industry of Ireland.

"Yet such is the grievous operation of the penal laws of which we complain, that the Roman Catholics are thereby not only set apart from their fellow subjects, as aliens in their native land, but are ignominiously and rigorously proscribed from almost all situations of public trust, honour or emolument, including every public function and department, from the

houses of legislature down to the most petty corporations.

"We state that whenever the labour of public duty is to be exacted and enforced, the Catholic is sought out and selected;—where honour or rewards are to be dispensed, he is neglected and contemned.

"Where the military and naval strength of the empire is to be recruited, the Catholics are eagerly solicited, nay compelled to bear at least their full share in the perils of warfare and in lowest ranks, but when preferment and promotion (the dear and legitimate prize of successful valour) are to be distributed as rewards of merit, no laurels are destined to grace a Catholic's brow, or fit the wearer for command.

"We state thus generally the grievous condition of the Roman Catholics of Ireland, occasioned solely by the fatal influence and operation of the penal laws, and though we forbear to enter into greater detail, yet we do not the less trust to the influence of reason and justice (which eventually must prevail) for effecting a full and deliberate inquiry into our grievances, and accomplishing our effectual relief.

"We do beg leave however, most solemnly to press upon the attention of this honourable house, the imminent public dangers which necessarily result from so inverted an order of things, and so vicious and unnatural a system of legislation, a system which has long been the reproach of this nation, and is unparalleled throughout modern Christendom.

"And we state it as our fixed opinion, that to restore to the Catholics of Ireland, a full, equal, and unqualified participation of the benefits of the laws and constitution of England, and to withdraw all the privations, restrictions and vexatious distinctions, which oppress, injure, and afflict them in their country, is now become a measure, not merely expedient but absolutely necessary, not only a debt of right due to a complaining people; but, perhaps, the last remaining resource of this empire, in the preservation of which we take so deep an interest.

"We therefore pray this honourable house to take into their most serious consideration, the nature extent, and operation of the aforesaid penal laws, and by repealing the same altogether, to restore to the Roman Catholics of Ireland those

liberties so long withheld, and their due share in that constitution, which they in common with their fellow subjects of every other description contribute by taxes, arms, and industry to sustain and defend.

"And your petitioners will ever pray &c."

RESOLUTIONS OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS.

At a meeting of the Roman Catholic Prelates, assembled in Dublin, on the 24th instant, the following resolution were unanimously adopted:

1. Resolved, That it is the undoubted and exclusive right of Roman Catholic Bishops to discuss and decide on all matters appertaining to the doctrine and discipline of the Roman Catholic Church.

2. Resolved, That we do hereby confirm and declare our unaltered adherence to the resolutions unanimously entered into at our last general meeting, on the 14th September 1808.

3. Resolved, That we are convinced that the oath of allegiance framed and proposed by the legislature itself, as taken by us, is not only adequate security for our loyalty, but that we know of no stronger pledge that we can possibly give.

4. Resolved, That having disclaimed upon oath all right in the pope, or any other foreign potentate, to interfere in the temporal concerns of the kingdom, an adherence to the practice observed in the appointment of Irish Roman Catholic Bishops can not tend to produce an odd or mischievous exercise of any foreign influence whatsoever.

5. Resolved, That we neither see nor desire any other earthly consideration for our spiritual ministry to our respective flocks, save what they may from a sense of religion and duty, voluntarily afford us.

6. Resolved, That an address explanatory of these our sentiments, be prepared and directed to the Roman Catholic Clergy and Laity of Ireland, as conveying such further instruction as existing circumstances may seem to require.

The explanatory address, containing the resolutions at large, was published (by authority) on Friday March 2d, by H. Fitzpatrick, No. 4, Capel-street Printer and Bookseller to the R. C. College of Maynooth.

PUBLIC OCCURRENCES.

BRITISH.

Captain Donovan, who has lately travelled 1000 leagues into the interior of Africa, justly observes, that he discovers

ed no real savages, except the Dutch inhabitants of the frontier provinces of the colony; as also appears from the follow

an account given by Colonel Edwards, in his travels in that country, in the year 1797;—"In the neighbourhood of Swellendam there are bushmen Hottentots, who might be civilized and made useful, if they were not hunted and pursued like wild beasts, by the spirit of revenge and hatred which the planters harbour against them. I have known farmers join together to hunt these miserable people, as we hunt a fox, for perhaps carrying off

a strayed sheep or lamb; and I once saw, after the chase was over, these bloodhounds draw lots for the first choice of two little boys they found concealed in a bush, and whom they unrelentingly seized and enslaved. In this state, to the disgrace of humanity, matters remain; for no endeavours have as yet been made to civilize these ignorant creatures, and make them useful to society."

DOMESTIC OCCURRENCES.

Spring assizes for the County of Antrim, at Carrickfergus.

CROWN COURT.

BEFORE HON JUSTICE FOX.

Robbery of Rev. Mr. Thompson's, House, Carnmoney.

Hugh Kennedy, Bernard Kane, William McClurkin, Bryan Harrigan, and James Brown, were indicted for attempting to rob the house of the Rev. Mr. Thompson, at Carnmoney. They were also indicted for conspiring to rob said house, and for an assault on Mr. McClelland.

The Rev. Mr. Thompson stated, that on the 26th May last, between nine and ten in the evening, he was in the kitchen bathing his feet; his servant girl had gone out, and in a few minutes after he heard a noise outside the house; his daughter opened the door but shut it immediately again, on perceiving a number of men abusing the girl, whose cries he then heard. At his desire, his man servant went to the door, but is not certain whether he opened it; the men were rushing into the house, upon which his servant exclaimed—"what do you want?" to which they replied, "D——n to your soul, you shall soon know," and knocked him down; one of them had a large pistol, another had a bayonet, and the third a small sword. These three attacked his man servant, and he retreated through the kitchen into the hall. Witness upon seeing the men immediately got up and seized a pitchfork, and made a push at one of the fellows;—but the candle went out, and at the moment Mr. McClelland entered the hall; and one of them levelled a blow at witness, but Mr. McC. drove his arm aside; he then presented the pistol at Mr. McC. but he struck up the muzzle with his hand, and the contents of the pistol, large slugs, went through the front of Mr. McC.'s hat, and shot off one of his fingers. Witness was standing immediately behind Mr. McC. and if the pistol had gone off in the

direction first pointed, it might have killed them both. On the discharge of the pistol, they immediately retreated. The whole transaction did not occupy above two or three minutes. The servant man was wounded on the head in several places. He could not identify any of the prisoners.

Henry Green, a prisoner, was examined to prove that there had been a plan laid to rob Mr. Thompson's house. In March or April, witness was a prisoner in Carrickfergus jail; he there saw Hugh Kennedy, who asked him to lend him a pair of pistols, as he intended to rob the house of Mrs. Montgomery, county Down, and also the house of Mr. Thompson, where he expected to get a great deal of money.

On his cross examination, he said he had been 13 months in jail; had been two or three times in jail; had often escaped the rope, and hoped he would again; he is now in jail for breaking a shop, and believes he was found guilty, but has not yet been sentenced; was resolved to do all the good he could, and wished them all to confess; he has no hopes of getting out of prison by what he now swears.

The judge in his charge to the jury, lamented that there was no proof that could attach guilt to any of the prisoners, except the evidence of Green, which went to prove the act of conspiracy to rob against Kennedy. The prisoners were all acquitted, but ordered to find bail.

STEALING A COW.

THOMAS DONAGHY was indicted for stealing a cow, the property of Jane Aiken, at Ballygrubry, county Derry.

James Kernaghan deposed, that on Tuesday the 29th August last, a cow was stolen from the farm of widow Aiken, who is his neighbour. In consequence of hearing that the cow had been stopped, he went on Sunday following to a place 30 miles distant, where he found the cow in a cow-house, and from another house the prisoner Donaghy was brought out in

charge of a constable. Witness asked him what brought him there, he answered, "the devil and no good." On the road prisoner intreated witness to let him escape—said he had no accomplice.

John Nichol arrested the prisoner driving a cow; he gave prisoner in charge to a constable, and put the cow into a house.

William Keown, herd to Jane Aiken, corroborated the evidence of first witness.

George Hutchinson, esq. said, having got information that the prisoner had a cow suspected to have been stolen, he went and found the cow in a house, prisoner said she was his property; he said his name was M'Causland, and that he lived in the county Tyrone; both of these assertions were untrue, for he has lived in the county Derry many years—GUILTY.

STEALING A MARE.

JOHN MARTIN was indicted for stealing a mare on the 14th December, the property of Robert Shannon, at Ballykeely, co. Antrim.

Robert Shannon deposed, that on Wednesday or Thursday, 12th and 13th December, a mare was stolen from his stable; there was some snow on the ground on the morning, and he with a boy traced her to the cross road which leads to Cushendoll, where he arrived in the evening, and found his mare in Mrs. Kennedy's stables; he there also saw the prisoner in custody.

Charles Magee, constable, said he was in Mrs. Kennedy's inn, about 12 o'clock, when he saw the prisoner arrive with a mare, which he ordered to get a feed of oats. Witness suspected the mare was stolen, on seeing a man of his description, riding with a good looking mare, with a fine saddle and a collar on its neck, and a baker. A man named Donaldson was at the inn, who said he knew the mare, and that she belonged to Robert Shannon.—Prisoner on being questioned, prevaricated, and witness went to a magistrate, who desired him to detain the man and mare, and sent to Shannon, who came in the evening.

Prisoner in his defence said, he was going for some money, and did not intend to make the mare any worse, and only took a loan, intending to pay Shannon for same. GUILTY.

COINING.

ALEXANDER, JOHN, MARGARET and ANNE M'Coy, residing at Tamnamore, near Toome Bridge, were indicted for coining bank tokens. John, Margaret and Anne M'Coy were also indicted for having in their possession a pair of dies for making counterfeit 7s. pieces.

John M'Reynolds, clerk of the peace,

county Tyrone, stated, that he went early in the morning of the 17th February to the house of prisoners, near Toome Bridge, accompanied by Lieutenant Alexander M'Donnell of the Antrim Militia, and a party of soldiers. Lieut. M. went to search John M'Coy's house, while witness went to Alexander's. Witness at first said he came to look for a deserter; Alexander was in bed, and several others in the same room; observed peculiarities about the fire place, which he has seen in places used for coining; the fire place was built up with clay, and a place left for the admission of the bellows to blow the charcoal; he observed a drawer locked, which he desired Alexander to open, but he peremptorily refused, saying it contained freemason's certificates; but on witness's threatening to force it open, he reluctantly gave him the key; the drawer contained eighteen 2s. 6d. pieces (which he produced in court) each of them wrapped separately in a piece of paper; there was a paper in the drawer with some ribbons and letters, but he did not know what it was. He also found in the house a crucible, some metal filings, and a block used in marking the edge of the piece. He afterwards went to John M'Coy's where lieutenant M'Donnell delivered to him two dies for making 7s. pieces, and other two for making 2s. 6d. pieces.

Lieutenant A. M'Donnell deposed, that John M'Coy's house which he searched is divided by a partition, and the two ends have no communication. In the one end of the house there were three women, two of whom are at the bar; the third was so ill with sore eyes that they left her behind; in the corner a cow was tied, which he loosened, and on turning up the earth, found three dies, wrapped in a piece of cloth; the women denied all knowledge of them. In the end occupied by John M'Coy, he found a great quantity of blank pieces of metal, some files, and a hand vice; John said he was an engraver. A soldier gave him another die, which he said he had taken from a boy;—he gave them all to Mr. M'Reynolds.

William Smith private in the Antrim militia, was stationed at the outside of John M'Coy's house, and saw two women, one of them Margaret M'C., with a boy; on perceiving witness the boy ran away; he called to the boy to stop or he would shoot him; the boy stooped and dropped a die, which witness gave to his officer.

Mathew Brady was examined in exculpation, and said he had known the prisoners long, and they had honest characters.

John Griffin knew John McCoy; he knows that he engraved the seals of a freemason lodge, and was reputed a very honest man in his dealings.

After an excellent charge from the judge, the jury retired, and returned with a verdict of Guilty against Alex. McCoy as to the first charge; acquitting the other three.

CATHERINE GLYNN, CHARLOTTE CAMPBELL, and HUGH QUIN, were indicted for stealing two pieces of cloth from Wm. Adams, a piece of cloth from John Little, and a stone of pepper from Sam. Crawford, Portlenness. It appeared by the evidence, that when the two women, Glynn and Campbell, were apprehended, the former was observed to drop the pepper, and one of the pieces of cloth was found concealed on her back below her cloak; they had left another piece of cloth at a house, and Campbell requested that it might not be given unless both were present. Glynn was found guilty on all the three charges: Campbell was found guilty of stealing the cloth from William Adams. No evidence appearing against Quin he was acquitted.

HUGH O'HARA was indicted for the murder of John Williams, on the thirtieth Dec. last, near Ballymena.

Mary Williams, or Wales said, her husband died on new year's day last; his death was occasioned by a stab near the nose, with a small sharp instrument, which entered his brain.

Dr. Patrick said, he was called to see the deceased previous to his death. He had a very small wound in the eye, occasioned by a sharp instrument, which had penetrated a thin bone behind the eye and passed into the brain. That wound certainly occasioned his death.

George Wilson said, he saw Williams on the thirtieth of December last, in the house of Henry O'Hara, Ballymena, at seven o'clock evening. Hugh O'Hara, came in, and asked Williams what he had to do there—Williams replied—What is it your business?—Prisoner said you shall not be here, and taking him by the arm went out of the room with him. Williams was not a minute out when he returned bleeding, it was running down his chin. Prisoner also returned.—Witness said to him, I think it strange you took out that old man and treated him so badly. Prisoner replied, "if you use many words, you perhaps may get the same sauce." When Williams and prisoner went out of the room into the lobby, he heard a noise, and when Williams returned he could not speak.

Cross examined, said prisoner had nothing in his hand when he went out—there was an iron latch on the door, and the lifter of the latch was about 2 inches long.

Dr. Patrick called again, said, he examined the lifter of the latch of the door, and it did not appear to have been the instrument that caused the wound, for there was no contusion, the wound was clean and straight through the eye, and appeared to have been made with a sharper weapon. Had the lifter made the wound it would have been longer.

Henry O'Hara said he is a relation to the prisoner, he keeps a public-house where the prisoner and the deceased were. The door of the room opened outwards, and there was a chest stood behind it which prevented it going fully back. On the night the deceased was wounded, he examined the back of the room door, and discovered a drop of blood on the cross bar of the door, immediately below the lifter of the latch.—The deceased lost a great deal of blood.

Q. Was it not possible that some person in the room might have dipped his finger in the blood, and marked the back of the door with it?—A. I cannot say.

Q. When you was examined by the coroner did you mention any thing about that drop of blood on the door?—A. No.

The door was brought forward, and examined by the court and jury.

Rev. John Fitzsimons, parish priest, gave the prisoner a most excellent character.

The learned judge summed up the evidence in a very minute and distinct manner, after which the jury retired, and took the door which had been produced with them. They soon after returned a verdict of manslaughter.—Sentenced to be hanged in the hand, and imprisoned twelve months.

THOMAS COCHRANE was indicted for the murder of Joseph Cochrane, on the 2d day of November last, by wounding him with a sword.

Thomas Stewart said, he was at Ballymoney along with prisoner and the deceased, and some others on 2d November. On their road home the prisoner was the only person on horseback. Joseph Cochrane desired him to catch the bridle of the prisoner's mare, and lead her, for that Thomas was not able to make home himself. He did so, when Thomas said he would beat any Cochrane that ever was seen, and became angry, but witness said it was all in fun. Some time after on the road, Joseph made up to Thomas,

and lifted a stick which made the mare rear. Prisoner then came off his mare, and went forward. Witness soon came up, and Thomas asked him to go and catch his mare, and having done so he returned to Thomas who said, I doubt I have stabbed Joseph in the thigh. Prisoner then had a stick in his hand with a spear in it. Witness then went back to the others, where he found Joseph on the ground, and carried him to his father's house. Prisoner came there also, and said where will I go for I have done a bad deed.

Mr. Wm. Moore, a magistrate, said he was sent for on 3d Nov. last, at ten o'clock at night, to Joseph Cochrane, and took his examination. He said it was Thomas Cochrane who run a spear into his left breast.

Dr. Hamilton said the wound was the occasion of his death.

Verdict—Guilty of manslaughter.—To be burned in the hand and imprisoned 12 months, and to give security for his good behaviour for seven years.

TIMOTHY M'CABE and GEORGE SINGLETON were indicted for the murder of William Alderdice, at Lisburn, on 29th August last.

Mr. Thomson, Surgeon, said, he was called on the night of 29th August last, at ten o'clock, to see the deceased who had been hurt in Bow-lane. He went, and found the man was quite dead. There was a small mark on one side of his head, but so small that on probing, it did not reach to the bone; but on examination afterwards, found several bruises on the neck and shoulders, and thinks the blows he had received had occasioned his death.

Isabella Irvine said she was in Bow-lane the above night with Thomas M'Cabe and George Singleton, and others. When they were walking home Wm. Alderdice drove against them, and M'Cabe, who was in liquor, took it as an insult, and struck him with a stick.

Alice Topping said, she recollects the affray, in Lisburn, when some blows were given, but she was so frightened that she went off.

William Bradshaw said he saw M'Cabe and Singleton walking on the street, when another man that was near them stopped—M'Cabe said, you are a black guard or you would not stop on the road. They then got into grips, and M'Cabe struck him, and the man fell. One of the women said, come away or he'll raise a mob. No, says one Wallace who was there, I have given him a blow that will make him lie a while. Wallace afterwards said to M'Cabe, Timothy you

could strike none, but I have given him a blow or two.

Robert Moore said, he saw from his window some men strike the deceased, and when he fell, they kicked him. Does not know the men.

Verdict, both guilty of manslaughter—To be burned in the hand; M'Cabe to be imprisoned six and Singleton 3 months.

JAMES CRONE was capitally indicted for stealing three pieces of linen cloth out of the bleach yard of Messrs. John and Jacob Hancock, the property of Mr. Dominick Greg, of Lisburn, on the 29th of August last.

William Shaw sworn—knows Mr. Dominick Greg of Lisburn, is clerk to him; identified a piece of the linen, and marked it at the time it was sent to Jacob and John Hancock's bleach-green, with the initials D.G. is sure the cloth is Mr. Greg's property.

Francis Neal Sworn—Is employed by Messrs. Hancock as watchman; recollects the evening of the 29th August last; there was linen cloth spread on that part of the green called the moss bank field; on going his rounds, all was right at seven o'clock; about eleven o'clock the same night he missed three pieces of the linen, and immediately proceeded to where he heard a noise like a hare or rabbit passing, he went in the direction of the noise over the ditch, and observed an appearance of something white like linen; on advancing saw prisoner rolling up linen in his apron; he struck prisoner with his gun, who made much resistance, and they both fell; prisoner then surrendered and accompanied witness to the foreman's house, which was about 40 perches distant, where he was taken into custody; in 15 minutes after, witness and the foreman went to the spot where prisoner was first discovered; the linen cloth, apron, a gun, and prisoner's hat were found, which were carried to the foreman's house; witness there marked the linen particularly.

James McKeown, sworn—Is foreman bleacher to Jacob and John Hancock; knows prisoner; recollects Neal the watchman, bringing prisoner to his house; afterwards accompanied Neal, to the moss-bank field; went over the ditch, and there found three pieces of linen in a blue apron; took the linen to his house; marked them (He here identified the piece produced in court)

The evidence for the prosecution closed, and the court asked the prisoner if he had any witnesses to produce; but none appearing, the learned judge recapitulated the evidence, and gave the

jury a most excellent charge, who, without retiring, in a few minutes gave in a verdict of—GUILTY.

On the verdict of the jury being pronounced, one of the prosecutors stated that he considered it a duty which he owed to himself and the public, to prosecute this old offender; but disliking the punishment of death for such offences, he earnestly entreated that the punishment should be commuted into transportation for life. The judge appointed a distant day, 5th of May, for execution, to leave time to make application for the change, and with much humanity added a wish that the law might be changed, for a less severe, but more effectual mode of punishment.

If the sentiment of mitigating punishments were not deeply impressed on fixed principle, the conduct of the unhappy man, in this case, might tend to unsettle it. While the judge was in an impressive and solemn manner exhorting the prisoner previous to passing sentence, and afterwards, Crone conducted himself in the most hardened and audacious manner, and occasioned general astonishment and horror in the court, by his total disregard to all propriety and decency.

We are informed that a plan is in contemplation to submit to the owners of bleach-grounds in the North of Ireland, the expediency of their petitioning parliament, to change the punishment of death to transportation for life, or to imprisonment for a number of years in penitentiaries, or houses of correction.—Sir Samuel Romilly has already succeeded in lessening the number of crimes for which death is awarded; and he is proceeding in his humane and judicious plan. A petition from the linen trade of this country might considerably strengthen his hands. The preamble to his act of last session justly states, that the punishment of death as not been found effectual for the revention of certain crimes, and that therefore it is expedient that it should be repealed.

Want of room prevents us from inserting the account of the trial of the murderers of Alexander M Cullough, near Toome. It shall appear in our next.

ELSTER.

Married.—Mr. William Fletcher, of Newry, to Miss Eliza Fox, of Foxbrook.
Mr. Thomas How, of Belfast, to Miss Jane Gemmill.

Mr. David M'Callough, of Lisbann, to Miss Ann M'Graw, of Maghercouse.

Captain William Cavan, of the brig York, to Miss Frazer, of Belfast.

Mr. Hugh Rea, of Killeen, to Miss Moore, of Ballymiscra.

Mr. Thomas White, of Belfast, to Miss S. Mooney, of Londonderry.

Mr. Henry Gelston, of Lisburn, to Mrs. Woods, of Belfast.

Mr. Edward Hill, of Belfast, to Miss Marshall of Ballyclare.

Mr. John Stitt, of Comber, to Miss Little, of Ballycreely.

Mr. William Armstrong, of Prospect Hill, to Miss Eliza Foster of Lisnagole, co. Fermanagh.

S. Hamilton Rowan, esq. son of Archibald Hamilton Rowan, esq. to Miss Ellen Jackson, of Crieve, co. Monaghan.

Mr. Alexander Pentland, of Banbridge, to Miss Murney.

Mr. William Shannon, of Magherafelt, to Miss Mayne, of Garvagh.

Died.—Mr. Owen Fox, of Koolnagar, near Dungannon.

At Ballynahinch, the Rev. William Blakely, dissenting minister.

At Ballinafoy, Mr. Robert Vance.

Miss Noble, at Templeporthouse, co. Cavan.

Mrs. Elizabeth Campbell, of Belfast.

At Armagh, the Rev. Dr. O'Hanlon, V.G. of that diocese.

At Brinfield, near Cavan, the Rev. Joseph Story.

Mrs. Stewart, wife of Mr. James Stewart, of Belfast.

Mr. Robert M'Calla, of New Grove, near Ballynahinch, aged 78.

At Armagh, Mr. George Stephenson, Printer.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT.

From February 20, till March 20.

The weather has not been favourable for agricultural purposes since last report, and very little is yet done in sowing spring corn, and there is much reason to expect that the farmer will have much work to do in a short time this season.

Wheat continues to look well, but the meadows and grass grounds do not show as much vegetation as is usual at this time of the year. The writer of this report has been lately in Scotland, and observed over the whole face of that country, the same backwardness with respect to the spring labour, and the farmers there are under much apprehension of a late harvest, in consequence of the delay in sowing.

COMMERCIAL REPORT

ALTHOUGH the produce of land bore a sufficiently high price amply to compensate the farmer, and from the demand arising from the English market, being completely open to exportations from this country, likely to continue so, yet to please the landed interest, the distillation from grain is now permitted in Ireland. Many of our Irish members fully co-operated in this measure, although some of them formerly, from a desire to encourage sobriety, had discountenanced the extension of the distillery-system, but now private interest was preferred to the advancement of morality, because many of these men were the owners of land, and because they feared the deficiency in the revenue, arising from the distilleries would be made up by other taxes. The lowering the duty on whiskey may probably answer the purpose of putting down illicit distillation, but from the low price of whiskey, drunkenness, which was already a wide-spreading evil, is likely to be further increased. A country is in a miserable situation, when its expenditure is so great, that to obtain relief from a part of the incumbent pressure, morals are sacrificed to an increase of revenue.

In another point of view, nothing is gained by a tax raised in a manner so as to corrupt the morals of the people. The state loses more from lessening the productive labour of industry, than is gained by a taxation raised on immorality. The real wealth of a country consists in well-directed labour, of which sobriety only is capable.

In England, the prohibition on distillation from grain, still continues, and considering the possibility of scarcity, and the uncertainty of foreign supplies, it appears to be a wise measure of precaution. Yet probably many voted for the prohibition, not from these motives, but to encourage the West India trade. The planters and merchants in that trade, find it is a losing speculation. Yet the planters have brought most of their distresses on themselves, by imprudence in managing their estates, and their wasteful luxury. In this abstracted point of view, they are not entitled to compensation from other classes of the community. They deserve to smart under the evils which they have brought on themselves.

Such is the present unsettled state of trade, and speculation has so deranged its former fixed habits, that almost every article is in a state of uncertainty. Dash and speculation have been the order of the day. The rash speculators, in many instances, by such practices, which must, on the principles of strict justice, be pronounced dishonest, have ruined not only themselves, but involved their acquaintances and connexions in trade, in similar ruin.

Many bankruptcies have taken place, and many more are expected, and yet ministerialists tell us, trade is flourishing. The present difficulties in trade will probably be still further increased by the new restrictions of Bonaparte, to exclude British articles from the continent of Europe. He appears resolved to exert all the powers of his capacious mind, and to employ his vast and gigantic military force to exclude us and our products almost entirely from those countries, over which, by one means or another, he possesses unlimited sway. Nothing is yet known with certainty, in regard to the issue of our impolitic disputes with the United States of North America.

A bill is in progress through parliament, to lay a duty of 15 per cent on foreign linens, brought into Great Britain for exportation. The linen merchants of Glasgow have been active in petitioning the board of trade, to procure an act of parliament for this purpose, and at their request, the linendrapers of Belfast, likewise petitioned through the Chancellor of the Irish Exchequer. The principle of such interference is not strictly justifiable in enlarged policy. The less statesmen interfere in matters of trade, the better. Besides, these applications to great men, often introduce a cringing servility, and flatters the prejudices of such people, as if they were better acquainted with the interests of trade, than those who are immediately concerned. Hence, they are ever ready to interfere, and their interference is often extremely prejudicial. In their efforts to afford the show of help, they often do much mischief. Of this, a striking instance occurred last year. To remedy a deficiency of flaxseed, brought on by im politic orders in council, the oil-stores in England were opened, bad flaxseed was branded, a bounty of 5s. per bushel paid on it; when brought to this country, the seed did not grow, and the people lost their crop. Such is the sample of the interference of boards with affairs of trade.

Little variation in the rates of exchange has taken place during this month, but the discount on bank notes is rather lower, being from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 per cent.

FLAX CROPS, 1809.

GENERAL RETURN of the Flax Land in the following Counties in Ireland, for the year 1809, showing the number of Acres sown with Irish Flaxseed... the number of acres sown with foreign Flaxseed... the number of persons who intend claiming the bounty for saving Flaxseed... and the quantity of Land they had under Flax

COUNTY.	Number of persons who raised Flax.	Number of acres sown with Irish Flaxseed.	Number of acres sown with foreign Flaxseed.	Total number of acres, Irish statute measur.	Number of persons who intend claiming bounty for saving Flaxseed	Quantity of land they had under Flax.
		A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.		A. R. P.
ULSTER.						
Antrim,	10352	115 0 0	1998 0 3	2113 0 30	66	187 1 10
Armagh,	4121	71 3 3	4215 2 2	4287 1 30	6	29 0 0
Londonderry	8478	59 0 0	4118 3 0	4177 3 0	4	25 1 0
Tyrone,	10241	81 3 34	3438 9 1	3540 1 35	3713	1341 9 12
Donegal,	6708	239 0 0	4148 2 0	4437 2 0		
Fermanagh,	566	3 0 0	112 2 0	115 2 0	6	5 1 0
Monaghan,	9951	8 3 0	2572 3 0	2581 2 0	5863	1674 3 0
Cavan,	2545	1 2 20	443 0 10	444 2 30	1119	181 0 31
Down,	2451	82 2 30	1050 2 20	1133 1 10	479	333 1 30
	55941	712 3 7	22118 2 8	22931 1 15	11256	3778 0 3
LEINSTER.						
Meath,	1021		370 0 15	370 0 15	1	5 0 0
Louth and Drogheda,	3245	459 1 38	793 3 2	1253 1 0	683	375 1 27
King's co.	1383	12 0 8	221 2 30	233 2 38	296	63 1 6
Longford,	7946		1346 2 33	1346 2 33	25	3 1 33
Kildare and Wicklow,	257	1 3 0	31 2 0	33 1 0	2	3 0 0
Queen's co.	183	5 0 21	13 3 22	19 0 5		
Kilkenny,	160		55 1 0	55 1 0	7	3 1 0
Westmeath,	2457	12 1 9	792 1 13	804 2 22	155	86 2 26
Carlow and Wexford,	526	43 3 0	55 1 0	101 0 0		
Dublin,	no return.					
	17178	536 1 36	3680 1 35	4216 3 31	1169	540 0 12
MUNSTER.						
Cork,	2373		880 2 20	880 2 20	1141	510 3 30
Clare,	45	7 2 0	12 0 0	19 2 0	18	5 3 0
Limerick,	956		643 3 34	643 3 34	196	88 2 1
Kerry,	no return.					
Tipperary,	222	16 1 0	101 1 0	117 2 0	215	108 2 0
Waterford,	465	8 3 5	6 3 15	15 2 20		
	4063	32 2 5	1644 2 29	1677 0 34	1570	713 2 31
CONNAUGHT.						
Sligo,	5192	15 2 2	668 1 37	684 0 21		
Mayo,	7770	48 2 19	1129 2 25	1178 1 4	3991	696 0 19
Galway,	1913	17 3 0	1177 2 0	1195 1 0		
Leitrim,	3077		1563 3 2	1563 3 2		
Roscommon,	4595	6 3 30	1700 2 3	1707 1 33		
	24547	88 3 13	6211 3 27	6300 3 20	3991	696 0 19
	Persons.	Irish Seed.	Foreign Seed.	Total Acres.	Persons for bounty.	Quantity of Land.
		A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.		A. R. P.
GRAND TOTAL.	101751	1370 3 1	3685 2 19	5056 5 20	17986	5727 3 35

December, 28, 1809.

G. and C. Duffin, Inspectors General.

NATURALIST'S REPORT.

From February 20, till March 20.

'Ere yet the Rain his golden horn displays,
And triumph o'er the night the length'ning days,
Smiles the young Spring ; but, like a maiden coy,
With fault'ring footsteps meets the coming joy,
While lagging Winter, wrapt in many a storm,
And chilling vapours, hover round her form.

EVANS.

ALTHOUGH some chilling blasts have whitened our mountains and plains with snow, and covered our water with ice, yet has the past winter been milder than generally experienced in our Northern situation, and could we hope that no greater cold would again prevail, we might plant, and see bloom around the gay variety of *Cistus*, and beautiful *Oleander*, of the south of Europe ; the splendid *Magnolias* of South Carolina ; and almost all the gaudy tribe of vegetables which the southern parts of New Holland, that land of wonderful productions, has presented to the eye of the Botanist.

The beautiful *Rock Rose* (*Cistus formosus*) *White Tree Heath* (*Erica Arborea*) and *Loblolly Bay* (*Gordonia Lasianthus*) have resisted the cold of the winter ; and from trials formerly made with the *Peppermint*, *Mint Tree* (*Eucalyptus piperita*) *Decurrent Sensitive plant* (*Mimosa decurrens*) and several other plants from about the settlements of New Holland, none of which were killed with a less cold, than 25 degrees of Fahrenheit's thermometer, it may be concluded they would have survived this last winter. A season of this mild temperature cannot however be often expected, and those who wish to beautify and benefit their country, would find inexhaustible stores in the northern parts of America, and even at the southern extremity, on the inhospitable shores of *Terra del Fuego*, where the valuable *Wintera Aromatica*, lost to Europe, awaits only to be introduced, to expand its beautiful foliage in the British Isles. No doubt but every friend to science and his country will learn with pleasure that, " Mr. Bradbury, who went out to America, to collect plants for the Liverpool, and Dublin Society, botanical gardens, has been with Mr. Jefferson ; who enters very warmly into the plan, and has offered his garden as a depot for any plants he may collect, which he will, should there be a war, send to Liverpool. Mr. Jefferson, also informed him, that Captain Lewis, whom he, when President of the United States, sent to explore the *Missouri*, had in latitude 49, at a vast distance from the mouth of the *Missouri*, and in so elevated a situation as to present a climate like *Greenland*, discovered a species of *Zea* (*Maize*) very productive, that will grow in the Highlands of Scotland. And also a species of *Holcus Sorghum* (*Indian Millet*) still more productive. Some of the plants measured 14 feet in height. Both plants are useful for food. Mr. Jefferson thought they would be of great importance, and has promised to send some seed of each to Mr. Roscoe. Mr. Bradbury has found several other new and beautiful plants. He is now exploring *Louisiana*, which has not been visited by any botanist. Mr. Bradbury says, Mr. Lewis is cultivating the *Maize* and *Millet* with success at *Louisville*."

On examining the report of last year, for the same period it will be seen that there is only three or four days difference in the time of flowering of the plants.

February 23d, *Missel Thrush* (*Turdus Viscivorus*) singing.

24, *Two leaved Squill* (*Scilla Bifolia*) flowering.

26, *Common Yellow Crocus* (*Crocus Mæsiacus*) flowering.

Peacock (*Pavo Cristatus*) expanding his tail.

Hedge sparrow (*Sylvia Modularis*) singing.

27, *Yellow Hammer* (*Emberiza Citrinella*) and *Common Lark* (*Alauda Arvensis*) singing.

March 3d, *Lungwort* (*Pulmonaria Officinalis*) flowering. *Blackbird* (*Turdus Merula*) singing.

8, *Basket Willow* (*Salix Viminalis*) flowering.

10, *Tit Lark* (*Alauda Pratensis*) singing.

13, *Double cupped Andromeda* (*Andromeda Calyculata*) and *Little Narcissus* (*Narcissus Minor*) flowering.

14, *White Dog's-tooth Violet* (*Erythronium Dens Canis*) and *Small Blue Speedwell* (*Veronica Agrestis*) flowering.

19. Pilewort (*Ranunculus Ficaria*) coming generally into flower.
 20. Dor Beetle (*Scarabæus Stercorarius*) and Humble Bees (*Apis terrestris*) making their appearance.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

From February 20, till March 20.

THE same changeableness of weather which marked the winter months, continues to prevail throughout this period; and although we have had some pleasant days, they have been smaller in number than usual at this season.

February 21,	Fine clear day.
22,	Cold windy day, but frost going off.
23,	Showery.
24,	Wet stormy day.
25,	Wet, stormy, with snow on the mountains.
26,	Light showers, stormy towards evening.
27, 28,	Fine, dry clear days.
March 1,	Showers of misty rain.
2,	Hazy, with light rain.
3, 4, 5,	Fine days.
6,	Fine day, with slight rain in the evening.
7, 8, 9,	Wet days.
10,	Showery,
11,	Rain.
12,	Wet and stormy.
13,	Wet morning.
14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, {	Some showers almost every day, but dry cold weather.

The range of the barometer has been so little, that to an inattentive observer, it might be said to be stationary; its lowest state was on the 7th, 8th, and 9th of March, when it stood at 28.8, and its highest was on the 21st of February, when it stood at 30.3.

The thermometer observed in the morning, was on the 21st of February at 30, on the 1st of March, 51; the rest of the time it seldom rose above 40, so that this period may be reckoned cool.

The prevalent winds have been rather easterly, having been 11 times N. E. 4 times S. E. 1 time E. by N. 8 times S. W. 6 times N. W.

CELESTIAL PHENOMENA.

FOR APRIL, 1810.

On the 4th of this month we have new moon, between 1 and 2 o'clock in the morning, and of course, on the preceding days, she rises in the morning, and is gradually decreasing till this time; at this new moon there is an eclipse of the sun; but at the time of new moon, the sun will be below the horizon, consequently the eclipse will be invisible.

10th, The moon is perceived to have passed the 3d of the Twins, these stars being seen at their first appearance, near to and below her. The moon being between it and the two first stars of the Twins, which are at a considerable distance above her. Orion, the moon, and the Twins now form an object considerably interesting. At 9, she is 48° 44' from the 1st of the Lion.

15th, She is on the meridian at 6 min. past 9, being now under the body of the Lion, the first and third to the east, the fourth and second to the west of the meridian; at 9, she is 41° 57' from the first of the Virgin, and 49° 29' from the second of the Twins.

20th, She rises at 6 min. past 9, under the two first stars of the Balance, but nearest to the first, Herschell being below the line, between her and the first of the Balance, but nearest to the star; as she rises in the heavens we notice below her the stars in the Scorpion and Saturn.

25th, She rises in the morning, between the small stars in the head of the Archer, and the two first stars in the Goat.

30th, She rises 40 min. past 3, in the morning, under the four stars in the Square, but does not reach, before sun-rise, the line through the two eastern of the four stars in the Square.

Mercury is a morning star, but too near the Sun at the end of the month to be seen in the evening, being in his superior conjunction on the 26th, at half past two in the afternoon. The moon passes him on the 2d.

Venus is an evening star, but near the sun during the whole month, and we are to look for her, soon after sun-set. The moon passes her on the 4th. Towards the end of the month, her approach to the moon will be interesting, but her passage by Jupiter will be made when the two planets are too near the horizon to attract much attention.

Mars is an evening star, being at sun-set on the first of this month, very near the middle of the lower region, in the west, and every night affording less opportunity for observation. On this night we will not fail to compare him with Jupiter, and the redness of his light, and comparative smallness, sufficiently distinguish him. The moon passes him on the 5th.

Jupiter is an evening star and in conjunction with the sun on the 28th, so that he will be seen near the horizon, only during the early part of the month, and towards the latter part he will be invisible. On the first, he will be seen at a little distance from Mars. The moon passes him on the 5th.

Saturn is on our meridian at nine min. past four on the first, and at three quarters past two, on the twenty-fifth, his motion is retrograde. The moon passes him on the twenty-second.

Herschell is on the meridian at 7 min. past 2, on the morning of the 1st, and at 11 min. after 1, on the morning of the 21st, his motion is retrograde, and is approaching the first star of the Balance, and on the 28th, comes so near it, as to be at the distance of only $3\frac{1}{2}$ min. from it, the star being to the south of him. This star being of the second magnitude, is such an excellent direction for finding him, that the curious may discover this planet, without the use of a telescope, and with great ease, particularly as he is in a favourable position at the end of the month, at midnight. The moon passes him on the 20th.

Jupiter being very near the Sun the greatest part of this month, the Eclipses of his satellites will not be visible.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The continuation of Sainclair came too late for insertion in this number. The conclusion to it, which N. promises, it is requested he will forward as soon as possible, that both may appear in the next number. In which also shall be inserted, L's answer to Queries relative to bleaching; the continuation of the Description of the Barony of Upper Fews, by J. D. The Paper on Doctor Aiton's tomb; the translation of the original dispatch from M. Barillon; and several other favours.

The verses signed I.P. and two Songs without signatures, are under consideration.

The second Epitaph on Miss Newton. The lines on an Elegante. The Impromptu. The verses to a little lady, and the verses on the ladies, by J.W.E. are not thought suitable to the Magazine, by the Proprietors.—The person to whom J.W.E. addressed his letter (which did not reach him till the 24th) is sorry he cannot with any convenience correspond with him on the subjects he desires; his opinions can be of no consequence to J.W.E. as the admission of papers for the work, does not at all depend on his choice.

ERRATUM...In the Political Retrospect, Dr. Johnson and Edmund Burke are said to have been reporters of parliamentary debates. This assertion is not strictly correct—Dr. Johnson wrote parliamentary speeches without hearing them; such was the ancient mode of reporting. Burke was a writer in the Annual Register. He was not a reporter, but a writer for hire. It, however, is not the smallest disparagement to him.

COMMUNICATIONS, ORIGINAL AND SELECTED.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

DESCRIPTION OF THE BARONY OF UPPER FEWS, COUNTY OF ARMAGH.

Continued from p. 171, No. XX.

IN this barony several quarries of argillaceous schistus, or slate, have been discovered in the neighbourhood of Cregan, and partially wrought, but there are only one or two of them open at present; they are of a light blue colour, and are heavier than the common imported slates, and consequently are more serviceable, not being so easily blown off a house by the wind. Beds of different kinds of ochre and pipe-clay have been discovered on the banks of rivers, and there are indications of different kinds of minerals, both in springs and other places, such as iron, copper, lead, &c. For the smelting of the latter of these from the ore (which it is said was procured from the mountains towards Keady) there was formerly a house in the neighbourhood of Newtownhamilton, called a smelt mill, the gigantic bellows of which were wrought by a water wheel; but this is in ruins long since.

The linen manufacture, when in its prime, was carried on extensively in this barony, almost every house being provided with a loom or looms; but now numbers of the weavers have to betake themselves to labouring for their support; there are however some few of them employed by different cotton manufacturers to weave cotton.

The principal proprietors of estates in this barony, are the earl of Charlemount, sir Walter Synnot, knight, Thomas Ball, Joshua M'Geough, and Adam Noble, esqrs. counsellor Hamilton, major Eastwood, the Rev. Dr. Quin, and the representatives of the late James Donaldson, Edward Tip-

ping, and James M'Cullagh, esqrs. deceased. Some of these let their lands reasonable, and wish their tenants to live well under them, whilst others seem only intent to outvie each other, who can set their lands at the highest rent, seldom bringing to their recollection, or thinking of those lines of Goldsmith, recorded in your November Magazine:

That,
.....A bold peasantry, their country's
pride,
When once destroyed, can never be supplied.

Bogs which heretofore were given gratis, as an appurtenance to each farm, are now let in some places, as high as the best arable land, and will at the expiration of the old leases be higher, as the landlords are striving to make a monopoly of them, reserving the same as a royalty in all their new leases. The Irish plantation acre was universally established, but the earl of Charlemount has introduced the English acre, and no doubt the rest of the landlords will be ready enough to follow the example. Lands I presume (not including the mountains and red bogs) are now setting on an average at the rate of one guinea and a half by the Irish acre, or thereabouts.

There are several of these landlords who reside occasionally in the county, but there are none who have houses in the barony at present; Sir Walter Synnot, and Thomas Ball, esq. only excepted; the late Edward Tipping, James M'Cullagh, and Adam Noble, esqrs. formerly resided in it. Sir Walter has an extensive and beautiful demesne, at Ballimore (which is about half way between Newtownhamilton and Mountnorris) planted in the modern stile, with different kinds of timber. (for the

most part ever-greens) which appear to be thriving remarkably well, the house is modern, and appears to be large and spacious, having two semicircles in the front; it is three stories high, and (if I remember right) has an attic story over all, it is situated on a rising ground, with an extensive valley in the front, through which a rivulet runs in a meandering course, and adds much to the beauty of the scene; over this valley, one of the roads to the house passes, and there are two snug stone bridges over the rivulet, which here divides in two parts for a short way; these, with the fancy plantings every where dispersed, and the distant view of mountains, hills and dales, and a beautiful sheep-walk on the face of a hill in front, make the prospect appear truly charming. The main road runs along the west side of this demesne in a northern direction, until it meets the rivulet beforementioned, where a stone bridge crosses, and the road continues in the midst of trees for some way, until it reaches the residence of William Reed, esq. who lives in a large house convenient to the road. On the left is the rivulet aforesaid, whose banks when it passes the bridge become elevated, and assume a bold, prominent aspect and are tastefully planted; there is also an aqueduct on the east bank where a stream of water is brought to a great eminence, from whence it falls down into the rivulet; there is an interval of level ground between the bank and the rivulet on the west side, where another beautiful road runs to the house; when this road comes to the bridge beforementioned, it crosses under the main road (there being an arch made under it, and over the small road for that purpose) and runs along the side of the hill a considerable way to the house, making in the whole I suppose a distance little short of an English mile. Sir Walter resides in, or near Drogheda, and has given this beautiful demesne to his eldest son, Marcus Symnot, esq. who resides on it; his brother Captain Symnot, has also built a house in the neighbourhood, in which he dwells.

Thomas Ball, esq. only resides oc-

asionally in this kingdom, living for the most part at Bath; his brother Captain Ball, however lives here constantly, and is universally esteemed by the tenantry: he is agent to his brother. Mr. Ball's demesne is near Cross; it is not at present extensive, but he intends to enlarge it, and to plant more timber trees; those already planted are thriving tolerably well.— There was only a small lodge on this demesne, until a few years back, when a good house was built adjoining the old one, the latter being reserved for a kitchen, office, &c.

The number of houses where public worship is celebrated in this barony, are 13, namely Cregan, Newtownhamilton, Ballymoire, and Lisardill churches; Freiduff, and Newtownhamilton Presbyterian meeting-houses; Clarke's-bridge Seceder meeting-house, and Glassdrummond, Drum-muckavall, Corliss, Cullyhanna, Ballymoire, and Ballymacnab, chapels, and mass is celebrated every Sunday, near Newtownhamilton, although no chapel is yet built.

The church of Cregan, is an ancient edifice, and has an extensive burying ground, enclosed by a good wall, a new tower was built to this church in the year 1799 which was not raised enough for the original plan, and therefore has a clumsy appearance. The river after it tumbles down several ledges of rocks at the bridge of Cregan (which has but one arch of a great span) runs among very high, prominent and in some places perpendicular rocky banks for a short space, which are covered with hazle and other timber; on the highest and most perpendicular one of these, the church of Cregan is erected, the brink being within a few feet of the door, with only a dwarf wall between it and the precipice; several large ash trees grow on the face of this bank, out of the clefts of the rocks; the river here takes a turn towards the glebe house, which stands on a small, handsome, round hill, on the opposite bank, about one hundred perches from the church, the house was greatly improved and a new wing built to it by Dr. Hamilton, now rector of Mullaghbrack parish, and principal

astronomer in the Armagh Observatory, who also enclosed a new garden for the same, and planted a great number of trees of different sorts (particularly firs) on the banks of the river and other places, such as along the church and garden walls, the boundary ditches, &c. so that these with the clumps, and other plantings, make the whole appear a truly romantic spot. On a hill adjacent is a charter-school, in which about 40 boys are maintained, clothed, and educated, by the Dublin incorporated society, until they be fit to be apprenticed to different trades; but it is said that this and several other schools are to be suppressed from the recommendation of the Board of Education, for some of the reasons which may be found at large in their report, a copy of which was published in this Magazine, for October last; the vicarial tythes of this parish were let by the late rector, the Hon. and Rev. Pierce Jocelyn, now Lord Bishop of Leighlin and Ferns, at £600, but it is thought they are worth much more; the present rector the Rev. Dr. Stewart, brother to Sir John Stewart the late Attorney General, intends holding them in his own hands and to make the most of them.

The church of Newtownhamilton, called the new church, stands on a bare, green hill, about a mile S.E. of that town; it is a modern structure, being erected about the year 1772; it has a lofty steeple with two bells. The glebe house was built a few years ago on the same hill convenient to the church, by the Rev. Robert Trouson, the present rector, and has nothing to recommend it, if it be not its conspicuous and airy situation, few trees being yet planted; this parish was once part of the parish of Cregan, which was divided, but the smallest part fell to its share, the tythes of the same not amounting to half the sum of that of the foregoing parish.

The churches of Ballymoire and Lisnadill are, more properly speaking, chapels of ease to the Armagh church, being both in the parish of Armagh; the former is an ancient edifice with

a belfry; the latter was built in the year 1772 in rather a low situation, near the side of the road leading to Armagh from Dublin, and has a lofty steeple ornamented with a great quantity of reddish hewn limestone, and bearing the arms of the late primate Robinson; this church and that of Newtownhamilton, being built under the auspices of that worthy prelate. In Ballymoire and Lisnadill churches, curates generally officiate, but the curate of the latter is always looked upon to be in the way of promotion, being under the immediate patronage of the primate: he also has a good house and farm in addition to his stated salary.

The meeting-houses,* and chapels

* In a thunder storm, which happened in the month of October, 1806, in the night-time, one of the Presbyterian meeting houses (that of Freiduff, in Cregan parish) was struck in two places by lightning, one of these places was on the roof immediately above the pulpit, the electric fluid, it is thought, being attracted to that place, by a small iron rod, which supported the canopy of the same; it dashed off about 18 inches broad of the slates, laths, &c. until it came to the pulpit, which it drove in pieces into the floor, and bended the iron rod beforementioned considerably, the other place struck, was the top of the gable of the aisle, a few feet of which it threw down; part of the electric fluid it is supposed ran in an oblique direction across the roof, which it damaged, tumbling off the slates, &c. in the direction it ran; the remainder it is thought entered into the house and occasioned considerable damage to a good seat immediately under where it entered; the whole in the egress, scarcely left one single pane of glass which it did not drive out, and part of the sashes with the same, and there was not a fissure or hole in the walls, that the mortar was not forced off in the outside; several holes were also made under the foundation, one of them in particular of a considerable size, where the electric fluid made its passage out; the ground in the outside of the house being torn in many places as if it had been grazed by small cannon shot; one of these scores ran forward to a sewer or drain, made for the purpose of carrying off water from the grave-yard, where it turned and passed down the same, dividing the grass and other aquatics, for a

of this barony are mostly new buildings, some of the chapels being built within this few years back on the site of old ones, and greatly enlarged; they are all slated, one or two only excepted, which it is expected in a few years will be slated also.

Without giving a particular description of the customs, &c. peculiar to this barony, which however are much the same among the Roman Catholics as in other parts of the kingdom.—The old Irish cry, or funeral *caoiné*, and bonfires on midsummer and St. Peter's eve, are still prevailing; but weddings on horseback, like those in Cumberland, are not so frequent since the spirits become so dear; I shall conclude this description by a short account of the towns, villages, &c. in this barony:

Newtownhamilton, anciently Tulivalen, from the townland it is situated in, is the only market town at present in the barony; a good market being held on each Saturday for the sale of meal, potatoes, flax, yarn, and of beef, pork, mutton, &c. in their season, in addition to the above, on the last Saturday of each month, a fair is established for the sale of cattle, and also a fair is held the 7th of May, and 6th of November, for the like purpose. This town is situated at the foot of Blackbank mountain, on the road from Dublin to Armagh, the road from Newry to Castleblayney, and from the former place to Keady, crossing the same in this town, all of which roads are much frequented, particularly by carmen. It contains near one hundred houses, great and small, about the half of which are slated; it has a market-square with a market-house at the head of the same, just in the middle of the road from Newry;—there is also a new sessions house built here, where adjournments of the general quarter sessions of the peace

considerable way in its passage. A man who lives in the retiring house, received a shock, being drove against the wall, as he was endeavouring to rise; but neither he nor any of the family were otherwise damaged, although one of the scores ran immediately close to the end of the house, against which it dashed up a quantity of turf-mould, &c.

for the division of Markethill in this county, are held twice in the year. This town is in the estate of counsellor Hamilton (son to the late lord bishop of Clonfert) the leases in this part of his estate are mostly perpetuities; the country is therefore improving fast, which seldom fails to take place, when there is security by good leases, for the inhabitants to enjoy the fruits of their labour.

Cross or Crossmaglin, contains about 20 houses, mostly detached, two or three being the most in one place; it is situated on a rising ground, on the road from Crégan to Carrickmacross, one of the roads from Dundalk to Castleblayney, intersecting the same in this place, it has a large common, and ten fairs are held here in the year, namely, the Wednesday after Candlemas; the Wednesday before Patrick's day; the last Wednesday in April; the 30th May; the Wednesday before midsummer o.s. the 5th of August; the 4th September; the Wednesday after Michaelmas o.s. the Wednesday after All-hallowtide, o.s. and the 16th day of December. Materials are now procuring by Thomas Ball, esq. (in whose estate this town is) for the purpose of building a market-house, the summer ensuing in this town, where he intends to establish a weekly market; it is said he also intends altering the fairs to monthly ones, the most of the present fairs being on Wednesday, the market day of Castleblayney, which is only a few miles off.

Johnstons-bridge, or barrack, or Camoly, as it is called, from the townland the common is situated in, is in the estate of Adam Noble, esq. it is remarkable for the ruins of an old barrack (part of the walls being yet standing) this barrack, and one on the top of Blackbank mountain were built, it is said, at the instance of old John Johnston, of the Fews (as he was called) for the purpose of having troops convenient to annoy the great number of thieves, robbers, and murderers, who formerly infested this part of the kingdom. A carman's inn is now kept in the house old Johnston lived in, adjoining the bar-

reck. Fairs are held here on the 25th day of May, and the 25th day of November, for the sale of cattle, &c. these fairs are the stated times when servants, both boys and girls, are hired in this country; people therefore, who want them for many miles around, especially from the north, resort thither for that purpose.

Balahiglera, or Balkmill, contains upwards of 20 thatched houses most of which were small cabins; both this and the town last mentioned, are on the road from Dublin to Armagh. There are six patent fairs in the Almanacks, for this village in each year, none of which are held; but three other fairs are held; the first on Shrove-Tuesday; the second on the Thursday after Trinity-Sunday (Corpus Christi) and the third on St. Thomas' day (the 21st of December) this village is in the estate of Major Eastwood. John Johnston, esq. son to the John Johnston beforementioned, resides in a long, low, slated house, at the south end of this village, which he calls Woodvale; he is now an old man, and was always esteemed, being quiet and inoffensive in his manners.

Culoville is situated in a level country, on the straight road from Dundalk to Castleblayney, which is here intersected by the road from Crossmaglin to Carrick-ma-cross, from the former of which it is about two miles distant; it contains only a few detached neat houses, among these is that of James O'Callaghan, esq. and William Crawley the present captain of the Cregan infantry. This village was formerly in the estate of James McCullagh, esq. deceased, but he having no male issue, it devolved to his daughter, who married John Reed, esq. who lives at present near Carrick-ma-cross, and is an elder brother of William Reed, esq. of Ballymoire, beforementioned. A patent was obtained for four fairs to be held in each year, in this village, the first of which, was to hold for two days; but several unhappy party quarrels happening in them in those times, they have been discontinued for many years back. J.D.

Clogh, Jan. 1, 1810.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

TRANSLATION OF AN ORIGINAL DISPATCH, FROM M. BARILLON, THE AMBASSADOR OF LEWIS THE XIV. AT THE COURT OF ENGLAND; GIVING AN ACCOUNT OF THE DEATH OF CHARLES THE SECOND; LATELY PUBLISHED IN THE APPENDIX TO MR. FOX'S HISTORY OF THE EARLY PART OF THE REIGN OF JAMES II.

THE letter which I have the honour of writing to-day to your majesty, is merely to give you an account of the most important circumstances which passed at the death of the late king of England. His illness, which began on monday the 12th of February, in the morning, underwent several alterations the following days; sometimes he was thought out of danger, and then something would occur which made it be supposed that the disease would prove fatal. At length on Thursday the fifteenth, about noon, I was informed from good authority, that there remained no hopes; and that the physicians did not think he could survive the night, I went immediately to Whitehall. The Duke of York had given orders to the officers in the anti-chamber to admit me at any hour; he was always in the chamber with his brother and went out from time to time to give orders about what was doing in the city. It was reported several times that the king was dead. At first when I arrived the Duke said to me, "the physicians think the king in extreme danger; I beg of you to assure your master that he will always find in me a faithful and grateful servant." I was for five hours in the king's anti-chamber, and the Duke several times took me into the chamber to speak to me of what passed abroad, and of the assurances he received from all ranks, that every thing was quiet in the city, and that he would be proclaimed king, the moment his brother was dead. I went for a while to the apartments of the Dutchess of Portsmouth, whom I found in extreme grief. The physicians had deprived her of all hopes. Instead of talking to me of her sorrow and the

loss she was about to experience, she took me into her closet and said, "Sir I am going to tell you the greatest secret in the world, it may cost me my life if it is known. The king of England is in his heart a Catholic, but he is surrounded by Protestant Bishops, and nobody tells him the state he is in, or speaks to him of God; I cannot with propriety go into his chamber, because the queen is almost constantly there; the duke of York is thinking of his own business, and has too much of it, to pay the necessary attention to the king's conscience; go tell him, I conjure you, to think of what he can do for the salvation of the king's soul. He is master in the chamber, he can put out whom he pleases; lose no time, for if it is deferred but little, it will be too late."

I returned immediately to find the Duke of York, I begged of him to make a pretence of going to see the queen, who had just left the king's chamber, and had been bled because she had fainted. The chamber communicated with two apartments, I followed the Duke to that of the queen, and told him what the Dutchess of Portsmouth had said to me. As if recovering from deep thought, he answered, "you are right, there is no time to be lost; I will risque any thing sooner than not do my duty on this occasion." An hour afterwards, under pretence of going again to see the queen, he returned and told me that he had spoken to the king his brother, whom he found determined not to receive the sacrament which the Protestant Bishops pressed on him; that they seemed much surprized at this, and that some of them would always remain in the chamber, if he could not frame some excuse for making every one leave it, so that he might speak to the king at his ease, and incline him to make a formal abjuration of heresy, and confess himself to a Catholic priest.

We thought of divers expedients. The Duke of York proposed that I should, demand leave to speak to the king his brother in private, on your majesty's business, and of course

every one should go out. I offered to do so, but represented that beside making a great confusion, it afforded no excuse for me remaining alone with the king as long as we would require. Then it occurred to the Duke, to make the queen come as to take a last farwell, and that he also would perform the same ceremony. At length the Duke resolved to speak to the king before every one; but to do it in such a manner that nobody should hear what he said; because this plan would do away all suspicion, as every one would suppose that he was talking of state affairs, and of what the king would wish to have done after his death. Thus, without any farther precaution, the Duke, after ordering that no one should come near, leaned down to the king's ear. I was in the chamber, and more than twenty persons at the door, which lay open, but no one heard what the Duke of York said. The king at different intervals repeated aloud, "yes, with all my heart." He sometimes made the Duke repeat what he said because he did not hear distinctly. This lasted for a quarter of an hour. The Duke then went out as if to go to the queen, and said to me, "the king consents that I shall bring a priest, I dare not bring any of the Dutchess's, they are too well known; go and look for one quickly." I said I would do so, but feared to lose time; but that I had just seen the queen's priests in a closet adjoining her apartments. He replied, "you are right" and pointed out to me the count de Castlornelhor, who warmly accepted the proposal I made him, and undertook to speak to the queen, he returned shortly and said, "though I risque my head by this, I do it with pleasure; however I am not acquainted with any of the queen's priests who understands or speaks English." He however discovered among them a Scotsman, named Hudleston, who saved the king's life after the battle of Worcester, and was excepted by act of parliament, out of all the laws made against Catholics and priests. They gave him a wig and clothes to disguise him, and conducted him

to a small room which led by a back stair to the king's chamber. The Duke of York sent to receive and introduce Father Hudleston, and then said aloud, "the King wishes every one to withdraw except the Earls of Bath and Feversham." The one was first gentleman of the bed-chamber, and the other was in waiting that week in his turn. The physicians went into a closet and the door was shut. The Duke presenting Hudleston, said to the king, "here, here is a man who saved your life, and now comes to save your soul." The king answered he is welcome." He then confessed with marks of great devotion and repentance. Hudleston had been instructed by a barefooted Portuguese Carmelite what he was to say to the king, as he was no great divine; but the Duke told me that he acquitted himself very well, that he made the king formally promise, to declare himself openly a Catholic, if he should recover; and that he then received absolution, the holy communion, and even extreme unction; this lasted near three quarters of an hour, all looked at each other in the anti-chamber, but no one spoke, except with their eyes and in whispers. The presence of the Lords Bath and Feversham who are Protestants, served a little to encourage the bishops; but the queen's women and the other priests saw so many coming and going, that I think the matter must be kept long secret.

When the king had received the holy communion there appeared a slight amendment in his illness. He certainly spoke more intelligibly, and had more strength, and we still entertained hopes that it would please God to display a miracle by restoring him to health;* but the physicians did not think the disease abated, and that the king could not outlive the night; however he appeared very calm, and spoke with more ease, and recollection than before, at eight o'clock in the evening at six the next morning. He spoke several times aloud to the Duke of

York in terms of the greatest tenderness and friendship; he twice recommended the Dutchess of Portsmouth and Duke of Richmond, to his care; as well as all his other children, except the Duke of Monmouth, whom he never mentioned. He frequently declared his confidence in the mercy of God. The bishop of Bath and Wells, who was his preacher, repeated some prayers, and spoke to him of God, and the king signified, by a motion of his head, that he heard him; this bishop did not press any thing particular on him, nor proposed to him, to make any profession of his faith. He feared a refusal, but dreaded still more, as far as I can conjecture, to provoke the Duke of York.

The king retained his recollection quite perfect all night; and spoke sometimes with great calmness. At six o'clock he asked what was the hour, and said, "open the curtains that I may again see the day." He suffered great pain, and at seven he was bled in hopes of allaying it. At half past eight, he began to speak with great difficulty, at ten he did not appear to recollect any one; and at noon, he died without any struggle or convulsion.

I considered it my duty to give an exact account of what happened on this occasion to your majesty; and I think myself very happy that God has allowed me to have some share in it. I am &c. L.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

NOTWITHSTANDING the length of time which has elapsed since the following address was delivered, we are inclined to gratify the friends of Botany, in this country, by its insertion, and are not without hopes that it may stimulate to a similar institution in this rising town. In a former number at page 91, of our first volume, we gave an account of this garden, and in a future number we design to communicate the laws and regulations adopted for the conduct of this Institution.

* *Ons dieu avoit voulu faire un miracle guerissant.*

AN ADDRESS, DELIVERED BEFORE THE PROPRIETORS OF THE BOTANIC GARDEN, IN LIVERPOOL, PREVIOUS TO OPENING THE GARDEN, MAY 3, 1862.
BY WILLIAM ROSCOE, ESQ.

In consequence of the untimely death of our highly respected president,* an event which I lament in common with every person present, and with the whole town of Liverpool, it has fallen to my lot at this time to lay before you an account of the measures which have been taken since we last met, for effecting the purposes of our association. Before, however, I proceed to the immediate business of the day, I shall beg leave to submit to you a few observations on the nature and objects of our institution, and this I am the rather induced to do, as this is probably the only opportunity that may occur previous to the opening the garden for general use.

After the unanimity, spirit, and liberality, which have been displayed by so numerous and respectable a body of the inhabitants of this town, in providing so ample a fund for this establishment, it may seem superfluous to detain you by any observations on the advantages likely to be derived from it; but as every pursuit is liable to objections from various quarters, and as we stand before the public, as having applied a large sum of money, and appropriated a considerable annual income, to the purposes of this institution, it seems to me that we owe it no less to that public, than to ourselves, to obviate those objections which may be made against us, and if not to vindicate, explicitly to state, the objects we have in view.

There are probably few persons present who have not at some time heard it said, that the study of *botany* is a trifling employment, undeserving of the time and attention which must necessarily be bestowed upon it. It may however be remarked, that the persons from whom this observation proceeds, are not in general distinguished by their proficiency in any other commendable pursuit;

every laudable acquirement being considered by them either as above or below their abilities. But can we for a moment conceive, that the works of God are unworthy the attention of man?—that those productions which bear such evident marks of the wisdom and power of the Creator, are too contemptible for the examination of his Creatures?—Whoever has had the curiosity to crop the humblest flower of the field, and to observe the wonderful conformation of its parts, combining the united purposes of elegance and utility, will not hastily despise the study of nature. But when these observations are extended through the immense variety of productions which compose the vegetable kingdom; when the different offices of each particular part of the plant, every one essentially contributing towards its existence and propagation, are considered; when we advert to the variety of modes in which these ends are effected, and the infinite contrivance, if such an expression may be allowed, which is exhibited in their accomplishment, a wide field for instruction and admiration is opened before us.—In some instances the operations necessary to the increase of the individual are carried on by an apparatus in the same flower, in others the parts requisite for that purpose are disposed in different flowers of the same tree; and other plants, by a nearer reference to animal life, are distinguished by the separation of sexes, and can only be increased by being planted in the vicinity of each other.—If we consider the internal structure, our wonder will increase in proportion as our examination is more minute.—Inspect with a microscope a transverse section of the stem of a plant, and observe the numerous pores, disposed in regular order; some destined, like the arteries of an animal, to convey nutrition to the remotest parts, and others to elaborate and concoct those endless varieties of resins, gums, salts, acids, caustics, and essences of different kinds, which it is the peculiar nature of the plant to produce. What bu-

* Richard Walker, esq. of Oak-hill.

man skill can construct a machine so wonderfully and beautifully arranged? Compare the most finished production of art with these works of nature, and see the infinite inferiority of its highest attempts; but even if the external resemblance could be rivalled, how absurd would be the endeavour to render this imitation capable of effecting one single purpose which the simplest vegetable performs. - What then is the result of this inquiry?—The establishment of the most important truth in nature—That if the utmost efforts of man can neither invent, nor even imitate these works, they are the product of superior intelligence and power; and thus, by decisive and ocular demonstration, we have an irresistible and unanswerable proof of the existence, the wisdom, and the goodness of God.

Another remark which has frequently been made to the prejudice of the study of *botany*, is, that it is a mere Nomenclature, tending only to burthen the memory with an immense list of names, without imparting to the student any degree of real and useful knowledge. But, supposing we grant for a moment that the only object of this study is the acquisition of the names of plants, is it a matter of small gratification, or of small importance, to be enabled to distinguish, at first sight, the productions of the vegetable kingdom, and to refer them to their proper classes, families, and stations? and must not this, in fact, precede every other kind of knowledge respecting them?—The disadvantages which result from the neglect of this study, are seldom more seriously felt than in the perusal of those narratives of voyages and travels, which are now so profusely published. In passing through countries which have seldom been visited by European curiosity, it is in the highest degree desirable, that the adventurer should be able to avail himself of the opportunities afforded him, so as to render his labours of substantial service to mankind; but how is this to be effected, unless he be previously furnished with sufficient knowledge to distinguish those natural productions which it may be worth his while either to

procure, or to describe? For want of this knowledge, which would enable him to acquaint us in two words with the name of every known plant, and to refer to its proper station every one which is unknown, we have endless descriptions of surprising vegetable productions, which either give us no precise idea, or by a long and circuitous track, enable us at length to recognize an old and familiar acquaintance. A striking instance of this may be found in the celebrated Kotzebue's narrative of his banishment to Siberia, in the course of which he discovered a plant which attracted in a high degree his admiration, and which he has described at great length as one of the most beautiful flowers he had ever met with. A very moderate acquaintance with botanical science would, however, have informed him, that this plant, if one may venture to form a judgment from his account of it, was already known to most parts of Europe, by the name of *cypripedium*, and the only doubt which remains is, as to the particular species of the plant, a doubt which his description does not after all enable us to clear up.

Nor are the advantages incidentally derived from these employments of slight account. Whoever has opened his mind to comprehend the extensive system of the vegetable kingdom, as arranged by that great father of the science, the immortal *Linné*, and has traced it through its various connexions and relations, either descending from generals to particulars, or ascending by a gradual progress from individuals to classes, till it embraces the whole vegetable world, will, by the mere exercise of the faculties employed for this purpose, acquire a habit of arrangement, a perception of order, of distinction, and subordination, which it is not perhaps in the nature of any other study so effectually to bestow. In this view the examination of the vegetable kingdom seems peculiarly proper for youth, to whose unperverted minds, the study of natural objects is always an interesting occupation, and who will not only find in this employment an innocent and an healthful amusement, but will familiarize themselves

to that regulated train of ideas, that perception of relation between parts and the whole, which is of use not only in every other department of natural knowledge, but in all the concerns of life. Independent too of the habits of order and arrangement which will thus be established, it may justly be observed, that the bodily senses are highly improved by that accuracy and observation, which are necessary to discriminate the various objects that pass in review before them. This improvement may be carried to a degree, of which those who are inattentive to it have no idea. The sight of Linné was so penetrating, that he is said never to have used a glass, even in his minutest inquiries. But our own neighbourhood affords a striking instance of an individual,* who, although wholly deprived of sight, has improved his other senses, his touch, his smell, and his taste, to such a degree, as to distinguish all the native plants of this country, with an accuracy not attained by many of those who have the advantages of sight, and which justly entitles him to rank with the first botanists of the kingdom.

But if such be the advantages derived from the study of *botany* as an abstract science, how much more important must it appear, when we consider that the whole subsistence of animal life is derived from, and entirely dependant on, the vegetable kingdom, and that the final cause, or proper use of plants, is to elaborate for animals that food which they can obtain by no other means. In such a point of view, this study acquires a dignity and an importance which leaves far behind it many of those occupations which are in general erroneously regarded with much superior approbation—as immediately connected with the subsistence and well-being of the human race; as the parent of agriculture and of horticulture, continually employed in providing and improving the great variety of healthful, pleasant, and useful productions which contribute to the support and enjoyment of life; the importance of this study

is self evident, and will certainly justify us in devoting a few moments to its more particular consideration.

If we were to indulge ourselves in a diffuse examination of the various purposes to which the productions of the vegetable kingdom are applicable, either in their native state, or in the many forms and combinations, as well liquid as solid, in which they are employed, we should certainly mispend our time, and probably weary our attention; but a few general observations on the different departments in which the knowledge of plants is more immediately requisite, cannot be thought remote from the purpose of the present meeting.

That among the medicines now in general use, some of the most beneficial and powerful are derived from vegetables, is universally known; but it is highly probable, that among the different tribes of plants which are indigenous to different parts of the earth, many other remedies, perhaps equally or more beneficial, yet remain for future times to discover and convert to use. The importance of experiments on this subject will be evident when it is considered, that the useful ingredient, frequently resides in some particular part or produce—in the root, the leaves, the flower, the fruit, the seed, or the exudation of the plant. In fact, the discovery of such vegetable remedies as we already possess, is rather to be attributed to accident, than to the result of any scientific attempts to ascertain their efficacy, and the world has hitherto been more indebted to the rude example of barbarous nations, who have sought their medicines in the wild productions of the soil, than to the researches of the philosophical and enlightened practitioner. Strange as it may seem, it is by no means improbable, that those plants which are regarded with horror, and trampled under foot as poisonous, may, under proper treatment, produce the most useful and efficacious remedies; and even those which are too acrid for internal use, would be found of the highest advantage when employed as external medicaments. Of the plants now

* Mr. Gough, of Kendal.

known, a very small proportion have ever been subjected to investigation in the various forms in which it might be applied; and of those that are known, attempts at improvement are often frustrated through the mere ignorance of botanical science, inasmuch, that medicines of real efficacy may have lost their credit by the substitution of others which resemble them in appearance, without possessing any of their properties. I have been informed by a very respectable friend, and excellent botanist,* that he once saw, in the laboratory of a druggist in the West of England, a considerable quantity of a plant which had been collected for the *Conium maculatum*, or hemlock, so strongly recommended as an efficacious remedy, but which, on examining, he found to be no other than the *Cherophyllum temulum*, a plant which, although it resembles the hemlock in its general appearance, is easily distinguishable from it by any person having the slightest tincture of botanical knowledge.

That of the vegetable medicines imported into this country, a great part might be cultivated here to considerable perfection is undoubted. The amount of Rhubarb alone brought into this kingdom, has been stated, though probably exaggerated, at the annual sum of £200,000.—Yet repeated experiments have shown, that the true *rheum palmatum*, will not only grow and perfect its seeds in this country, but that it possesses similar qualities in every respect to the foreign rhubarb.—In the same manner it is well ascertained, that good opium may be obtained from the *papaver somniferum*, and most probably *assaetida* from the *ferula assaetida*, a plant which perfectly bears this climate, although it is yet almost exclusively confined to the precincts of the botanic garden at Edinburgh.

Another field no less extensive, and no less fertile, is opened to the diligent inquirer, in the application of vegetable productions to the purposes of manufactures and arts.—From the *cannabis sativa*, or hemp,

the *linum usitatissimum*, or flax, and the *gossypium herbaceum*, or cotton, we derive a variety of productions of various texture, which contribute to the different objects of use or ornament, and the preparation of which has given these kingdoms a decided superiority over every other part of the globe. It is, however, highly probable, that many other plants contain fibrous substances either in the bark, the stalk, or the leaves, which might by proper processes be converted to a similar use, and might produce a web not only of a different, but of a more beautiful texture than any hitherto known.—

The rude productions of the Southern islands from the barks of plants, afford a sufficient indication of that which might be effected by the skill of modern ingenuity. In a plant of which we have already made the acquisition (the *phormium tenax*) the fibrous quality is so remarkable, that from a single leaf may be collected an aggregate of threads upwards of three feet long, and nearly the thickness of a finger, the strength of which seems to be in every respect proportionate to its size. Nor, as we descend to the minuter specimens of the vegetable world, does their utility seem to decrease. The *musci*, *algæ*, and probably the *fungi*, contain an infinite variety of dyes, which by proper processes may be extracted for the use of the manufacturer. From some of the *lichens*, important materials are already obtained; nor is it improbable that many others, if exposed to proper experiments, would be found equally useful. These qualities, although so generally neglected, are frequently indicated in a most striking manner. On breaking the *boletus luteus*, a large fleshy production of the fungus kind, the part so broken, discloses a fine yellow surface, which by the operation of the air, is, in the space of one minute, converted to a beautiful blue.

With respect to the use of vegetables as food, it is notorious to all who have the slightest knowledge of the former state of this country, that scarcely a single article of those which now compose the daily nourish-

* John Ford, M.D. and F.L.S.

ment of the people, is indigenous to the island, but that almost every valuable production we possess, has been introduced by the useful labours or laudable curiosity of those, who like yourselves, have cultivated or encouraged botanical and agricultural science. The potatoe, at present the most valuable of esculent plants, is a tender exotic, which shrinks, and frequently perishes in our climate. Its original introduction was probably as an article of curiosity, and general as it is now become, it may possibly be yet superseded by some more nutritious and healthful production. For the fruits which enrich our orchards and gardens, we are indebted to almost every different quarter of the earth, the plants of which have by degrees been accustomed to our climate, and repay our attention by an infinite variety of healthful, rich, and grateful productions. In all the more useful tribes of fruit-bearing plants, there is indeed a wonderful tendency to conform themselves to the accommodation and service of man. The infinite varieties of the apple, the pear, the cherry, and the plum, as they now appear in our gardens, are almost as much the product of art as of nature, and are most of them wholly different in magnitude, flavour, colour, and salubrity, from the native stocks from which they are originally sprung. The same may be asserted, with equal truth, of most of our esculent vegetables, many of which in their unimproved state, are useless or poisonous productions, but cultivated in our gardens, acquire a sort of second nature, and not only lose their noxious qualities, but become useful and salutary articles of food.—But can any one say, that in this department no further hopes of acquisition remain? When the peach and the apricot are as common on our walls as the gooseberry in our borders, is it unreasonable to expect, that in countries yet imperfectly explored, many fruits may be found which may also be gradually inured to a more northern clime? And is it not probable, that the improvement of esculent plants by artificial means is yet in its infancy, and like every

other science which investigates the operations of nature, may be carried to an indefinite degree of perfection! It would be trespassing on your patience, to dwell upon the various improvements which might be expected from the importation of new kinds of grain, or from the varieties which might arise from the impregnation of kinds already known, by processes in some degree similar to those observed in improving the breed of cattle. That the Indian corn (*zea mays*) may be cultivated with success in this country, so as to afford a most abundant nutriment, and in favourable situations to ripen its grain, is no longer a matter of doubt. The Egyptian wheat, the stem of which is solid, and bears five or six large ears of corn, is also perfectly suitable to our climate. In the growth of grasses now used in agriculture, a great improvement may also reasonably be expected, whenever these studies obtain that degree of public attention which they intrinsically deserve.

It is not then for the mere gratification of a futile taste, or an idle curiosity, that we are thus associated together. We can indeed admire the works of nature in her vegetable productions—we can observe with astonishment the rapid action of the *dionea muscipula*, which closes its spiny leaf and stabs the wretched insect that alights upon it—can regard with wonder the voluntary motion of the *hedysarum gyrans*, the timid contraction of the *memosa pudica*; or the elastic spring in the stamina of the barberry, which seem to indicate an animal sensibility. We can even, like the florist, contemplate with pleasure the infinite variety of forms and colours displayed by the vegetable world; but to those who wish to contribute to the general stock of utility, these are not the primary objects, although highly preferable to many of those amusements which occupy an important rank in the daily pursuits of mankind.

The great superiority of a public institution over a private collection, in promoting botanical science, will be sufficiently apparent, from the consideration, that the latter depends

upon the taste, the finances, or the caprice of an individual, and if it be encouraged and fostered during his life, is frequently dispersed at his death. That with respect to many plants, a long course of years is necessary to bring them to that state of perfection in which they can perform their operations, and perfect their fruit, and that this can only be expected from a permanent institution. That private collections are in general of difficult access, whereas the very end and object of our establishment is to render it as extensively useful as possible. The joint encouragement and patronage of so respectable and numerous a body of proprietors, many of whom have connexions in foreign parts, which may enable them to render this infant institution the most essential services, certainly afford us the most flattering prospects of success.—And it is with pleasure I can communicate to you, that this example has already excited a spirit of emulation in some of the principal towns of the kingdom, where proposals have been published for institutions on a similar plan. The intercourse to which it is to be hoped these establishments will give rise, and the free communication of every interesting discovery or improvement, cannot fail of diffusing a more general attention to studies of this nature, and eventually of contributing in a high degree to the welfare of the community at large.

To those who have not already had an opportunity of being fully apprized of the proceedings adopted in the prosecution of our plan, it may be necessary to state, that a purchase has been made of a field within the limits of the township, but at the distance of about half a mile from the buildings, containing upwards of ten statute acres of land, of which about five have been appropriated to the use of the garden. In this, two lodges have been built for the habitation of the curator, and other purposes, and the whole is now enclosed with a stone wall, and surrounded by a commodious road. The remainder of the land it is intended to sell for the purpose

of improving the funds of the institution, and it is highly gratifying to observe, that such has been the rapid increase in the value of property since the commencement of our undertaking, and such the advantages of the situation from the vicinity of the garden, that reasonable expectations may be entertained, that the land we have to dispose of, will refund us for the whole; or in other words, that we shall obtain the site of the garden free of expense. In addition to this fortunate circumstance, I have the pleasure to add, that as this land is held under the corporation of Liverpool by a lease, for a term of which only one life and twenty one years are in being, the Mayor and Common Council have, with a liberality which confers on them the highest honour, and entitles them to the most grateful acknowledgments of the present meeting, made a free grant to the proprietors of the reversionary interest in the garden and buildings, as long as the same shall remain appropriated to the purposes of its original institution. Accompanying this signal proof of their attention to the promotion of useful knowledge, and their regard to the true interests of the flourishing community over which they preside, by the expression of their very favourable opinion of the general public utility likely to arise from this institution, and their confidence in its becoming an ornament to the town.

On the disposition and arrangement of the garden, and the appropriation of the funds, so far as the committee have hitherto proceeded, some account will also be expected. Proper departments are allotted to the growth of trees, shrubs, and hardy herbaceous plants of every description, forming a general collection of whatever can be obtained from every part of the world, which is sufficiently hardy to bear the severity of our winter climate. A sufficient portion of the garden will be allotted to medical plants. Another to those used in agriculture; and most particular attention will be paid to the investigation and improvement of the various kinds of grasses and grain.—

In addition to the conservatory already built, it is intended to erect a range of building of two hundred and forty feet in length, which will consist of five distinct apartments, on an elegant and spacious plan, and which will be regulated to different degrees of heat, according to the different climates of those plants which may require their protection. These preparations will, it is presumed, enable us to preserve at least one specimen of every valuable plant, which is either known in this country, or which we may have the good fortune to introduce.

In addition to these objects, it is also thought expedient, that a library of works in natural history, and a collection of specimens of dried plants, should be formed with all possible expedition, as appendages to the institution. The foundation of the latter is laid by the purchase of the Museum of the late Dr. Forster, which has been brought from Halle, in Germany, and is now under the care of our manager. This collection comprises many thousand specimens, collected by the doctor and his son in the South Sea islands and other parts, and large contributions of plants from those illustrious botanists, Linné, Thunberg, and Jacquin, with whom Dr. Forster was in correspondence. To these we have no doubt of making considerable additions, from the liberality of several eminent men, who have already kindly expressed their intentions in this respect, among whom I may venture to mention Dr. Wright, president of the college of physicians at Edinburgh, who is now obligingly preparing to send us specimens of the plants which he has himself collected in foreign countries, or which have been transmitted to him by his learned correspondents from different parts of the world.

Such, gentlemen, are on this occasion the objects of our common pursuit—objects, which the more they are examined, the more they will be found entitled to the zealous assistance of the proprietors, and to the approbation of the public at large. In the course of a few weeks, it is in the contemplation of the committee,

to open the garden for public use, and I cannot but congratulate the proprietors, that about the same time, the very learned and eminent Dr. Smith, president of the Linnæan society, on the requisition of a considerable number of gentlemen, has consented to deliver his public instructions in this town, on the science of botany; when the slight and unskilful remarks with which I have on this occasion had the presumption to trouble you, will be compensated by a full display of that knowledge, the joint result of genius, opportunity, and application, which has deservedly placed this illustrious disciple of Linné at the head of the first botanical institution in the kingdom.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON PUFFING AND THE FASHIONABLE ARTS OF RISING IN THE WORLD.

WHATEVER advantages in the sciences, and in the more general diffusion of knowledge, the present times may possess over former periods, simplicity of manners and of character, does not rank among them. An artificial character, and a higher polish, have superseded the rougher, but more sincere manners of former days. Such is the progress of luxury. Voltaire in his sarcastic observations on Frederic, surnamed the Great, has aptly characterized this polish, by comparing him to a marble side-board, which notwithstanding its smoothness was still cold and hard, and we may add apt to break what was incautiously brought into contact with it. A taste for dash and the exhibition of the showy qualities pervades all ranks. In the manufactures and in the mechanical arts, show is substituted for strength, and the aim is to produce an article at a small expense, that will look well, without regard to its durable or substantial qualities. The pressure of the times obliging many to curtail their expenses, and the willingness to keep up appearances, when the means are not easily procurable, still farther support the fashion of preferring the slight and showy to the useful. This disposition when once admitted, runs through an entire

abishment, and brings under its sway not only the outward appearance, but influences also the conduct, and those things more immediately connected with *mind*. Hence, in education, the showy qualifications are preferred, and the accomplishments which enable to shine and make a glittering appearance, are substituted for the laborious studies, and that strictness, I do not say severity, of moral discipline, without which youth of both sexes, can attain to nothing that is truly valuable or intrinsically useful. We require to be braced to a higher toned system of morality, for we may be assured that however the present system may be calculated to produce the glitter and tinsel of over-refined delicacy, something more is necessary to prepare for the production of those virtues, which adorn the individual, and shed a lustre on the age in which they conspicuously appear, which show human nature in its most amiable forms, and contradict the misanthropic speculations which seek to degrade our common nature to the level of the objector's selfish motives.

Connected with this fondness for show, we may observe the attendant puffing, which marks the prevailing taste. Quack doctors and keepers of lottery offices led the way, and the success of Dr. Solomon, and Brodum, who imposed on the credulity of the people, have vitiated the taste, given a wrong tone to popular feeling, and encouraged a host of imitators to prey on that cullibility of which they find so large a fund in the public, and which they do not fail to turn to their own advantage. From this direction of the public mind some suppose that those who decline to puff, are scarcely on equal terms with the puffers. But they "who think more highly of their kind," cannot acquiesce in this opinion; they allow that popular feeling is perverted, but yet not so completely as to be entirely insensible to merit, unless tricked out by the meretricious arts of puffing. They depend on the good homely adage of our ancestors; "good wine needs no bush," and conscientiously refrain from all the arts and finess, calculated to capti-

vate the vulgar, or to puff off their wares.

In the walks of literature, puffing is very common, although certainly it is very incongruous to the chaste taste of literature, and inconsistent with that candour, which ought to characterize the citizens of the republic of letters. They ought to soar above such meanness. It has even been recommended as in the way of trade, to puff the *Belfast Magazine*. I hope the attempt will never be made, but that the conduct of the Proprietors will ever be consistent with the generous advice of the Roman to his son, "Learn the arts of fortune, from others, but from me virtuous independence."

Puffing leads to another evil, that suppleness of manners, which to promote an end, is little scrupulous about the means, and induces to exchange the unbending front of virtue, for the courtier-like demeanour, which by sinking seeks to rise to the attainment of the object in view.

"By virtuous means, be virtuous ends pursued."

If it is not allowable to seek for the attainment of virtuous ends, by even doubtful means, still more forcibly does the objection apply when neither the ends nor the means are honourable. This blot in modern manners is well noticed by old Macklin, in "the Man of the World." When asked by what means he raised his fortune, Sir Pertinax Mac Sycophant with a thorough knowledge of the arts, which enable a man to rise in the world, replied:

"I raised it by boozing; by boozing Sir, I never in my life could stand straight i' th' presence of a great man: but always boozed, and boozed, and boozed, as it were by instinct."

Facts are best illustrated by examples, and I hope I shall be excused for adducing one near at home.—The allusion is not brought forward from any ill will to the proposed institution, for if it should be conducted on the suitable principles of independence, it is deserving of every encouragement. When the new Aca-

demical institution in Belfast, was first proposed, in the fervour of zeal to promote its interests, complimentary letters were written to the neighbouring gentry. The plan so far succeeded, the fashion of subscribing spread, and dignitaries of the church, the nobles, and high gentry of the land, were enrolled among the subscribers. Now mark the progress of error. It has since been made a standing order of the institution, to saddle themselves with masters, and three bishops, and five members of parliament, whose qualifications in literary pursuits do not enter into the views of the electors, who return them, are constituted perpetual honorary visitors, and consequently vested with a controul over an institution, the prime object of which ought to be to promote the cause of literature and science, independently of religious sect or political party, and unshackled by the trammels imposed by worldly policy, for the sake of a present delusive advantage. It requires no profound depth of foresight to pronounce that an institution so founded, is not established on principles likely to insure the ends of free and undaunted inquiry, nor to lay the foundation for a disposition in the youth in future life to serve their country, and extend the cause of liberty.

This instance of *boowing*, or time-serving, is an unfavourable symptom of the present state of public spirit, and inconsistent with the independence ere while manifested by the inhabitants of Belfast, and of the North of Ireland. It is a token of declension in manners, and ought to cause a fear in generous bosoms, lest the contagion spread. K.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

THE TOMB OF AITON.

AS a love of life is natural to man, so to live in the recollection of our contemporaries, as well as to have our names transmitted with respect to succeeding ages, is a wish congenial to the human heart. How far this was the wish of Dr. Aiton, whose journey in life commenced more than 200 years ago, is impossible, to de-

termine at this distance of time.—But if to be remembered was his desire, he has indeed been recollected under circumstances very peculiar. All the branches of his family are long since extinct. The historian gave him no place in his page, and the minstrel in a neglected age, omitted to introduce his name in his lay; yet the descendants of the circle in which he once moved, whiten his sepulchre, and with a religious care preserve his tomb. The monument erected to the memory of Dr. Aiton, will strike the eye of the traveller of observation, as he passes through that plain village once geographically dignified a city, called Connor, in the county of Antrim, Ireland. It is raised on a fragment of that ancient Gothic ruin, known by the name of the cathedral of Connor. It stands elevated above all the memorials of the thousands of the silent family that surround it, as if the dust it commemorates would lead the way in emerging to meet the spirit once in mysterious union with it. But this monument is not only peculiar in its elevation, but also in its aspect. All the others erected in honour of the surrounding dead, look to the east; but the tomb of Aiton faces the south, as if directing its silent voice to the highway passenger, in the ancient language of solemn admonition, *memento mori!*—Ah! thoughtless fellow traveller, when you see this tomb, halt on your step and ask yourself the important question—

And shall this body die,
This mortal frame decay;
And shall these active limbs of mine,
Lie mouldering in the clay?

Ye villagers to whom this monument is daily familiar; ye worshippers who weekly pass it in review; and ye mourners who come hither to perform the last sad office to your mortal kindred, I feel more than common interest in your present and eternal fate, and wish you to learn from it not only the lesson of mortality, but to look above it to an immortal existence; that so the surviving age, may not only, as in the days of barbarism, erect your tomb, and raise the song; but that you may rank in

the estimation of your God, and figure in the annals of eternity. You are but humble villagers, yet if with one talent you gain another, your felicity will be as complete, as those who with ten talents, gain ten talents more.

But the reader perhaps will ask, why does Aiton yet live in the estimation of his countrymen, and why does the cypress still wave afresh o'er his tomb? This is a question which the writer has often put to the men of age around this village, and singular indeed is this circumstance, when we reflect on the number who have since filled the same holy office, without the slightest relict to mark their ashes (his son excepted) or cenotaph, to say they usefully filled a place here.* Ah sir! Dr. Aiton was a good man, is the constant answer of the aged peasant, I heard my father say he was a good man; it was he who planted yonder trees that you see in the grave yard, and bestowed them on the parish; it was he also who built the bridge that leads to the church; and some add that it was he who built the wall that now surrounds this ancient episcopal ruin, and a public feeling always accompanies the mention of

his name, that his tomb shall never be permitted to come to ruin.

His epitaph,† which is in Latin; the characters of which are fast fading, and require to be retouched by the hands of the engraver. After reciting his name and laborious life, says that he died the 10th of May 1663. And it is added at the bottom of the monument, that England gave him birth, France formed his agreeable manners, and Ireland gave him a grave. This amiable prebendary must have filled his office amidst the shocks of religious discord that agitated the church, in the Cromwellian and Stewart days. But what predatory Englishman's fortune he followed to this ill-fated country, we are not informed. But the fragments of his history, both traditionary and monumental, are calculated to convince us, that he did not visit our unfortunate island, alone to feed himself with the fat of the flock, and clothe himself with the wool. That he did not deliver up the tythings of God's heritage to the rapacity of a merciless and unfeeling proctor; that he was seen oftener by his sacred charge, than at the times he crossed their grounds at the heels of his patron's well trained pack; that he distinguished himself the clergyman in other spheres besides the lordly table, the frolick, the theatre, and the assembly. Had these been the only circles of his clerical activity, a monument might indeed have been erected to gratify family or patronic pride: but being

* The following names are recorded as having filled the clerical office at Connor church, since the demise of Dr. Aiton.

Andrew Aiton, . . .	1704
John M'Geoch, . . .	1722
Skivinton Bristo, . .	1731
R. Gardner Chaplin, .	1733
John Maxwell, . . .	1735
Hugh Maxwell, . . .	1761
John Nuson, . . .	1782
Richard Dillon, . . .	1783
Charles Douglas, . . .	1784
James Glass, . . .	1788
Bernard Doran, . . .	1789
John Coleman, . . .	1794
Richard Babington, .	1795
Hugh Wilson, . . .	1810

Presbyterian ministers of said parish.

Quart, date unknown.	
David Cunningham, .	1697
Robert Murdoch, . .	1699
Charles Masterton, .	1704
M'Master, . . .	1716
Thomas Fowler, . . .	1733
James Cochran, . . .	1737
James Brown, . . .	1774
Henry Henry, . . .	1788

BELFAST MAG. NO. XXI.

† As a literal translation of Dr Aiton's Epitaph, is not attempted in the above essay, it may gratify the reader to see a copy of it. The following is a verbatim one, as nearly as we could take it.

Exantlatis Hivis Ærvmn-
osæ vitæ laboribus inigr
avit hinc Robertus Aiton,
Artium Magister. Decimo,
Mæis Anno Salvæ Patriæ: 1663,
Ætatis Svæ 80. Crivis Exuvias,
Requiescunt in pace Svæ,
Hoc Cippo in Spem Beatæ,
Resurrectionis. Itemque,
Dvorvm Nepotrlorvm.

Esse dedit Albion, Mores formavit Amœ-
nos

Gallia, Nel-Eidvm nunc tegit ossa Solvm.

11

unfounded in public opinion and unsupported by public gratitude, it must have been long since obliterated, circumstanced as his was.

But we may justly infer that he was not only Frenchly affectionate in look and manner, but that the principles theoretically imbibed by education, were converted into active habits of the mind, and that his highest wish was to please his God, and the next, to be generally useful to his earthly intelligent offspring. That he showed the community an example in agriculture and the arts may be fairly concluded, not only from what has been related of him, but from the highly finished, and cultivated state in which fame says he left the Grove, the place of his residence near Kells. It is said to have abounded with the nicest shrubs, the most delicious fruit, and the finest forest trees. It has been said to me, that he was temperate in his life, yet hospitable, willing to share his cup and his crust with the wayfaring man. The bounty he derived from his patron, through the medium of the people was reverberated back on society through different channels, tending to feed the hungry and clothe the naked.

Let those who would live after death like Aiton, imitate his example.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

A COMPARATIVE ESTIMATE OF THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF EDUCATION, WITH THAT OF THE LAST AGE.

"**HERE** are no children," exclaims a late French writer, "childhood is blotted out of the map of life." The freedom of manners, introduced by the present system, has been carried so far, as in many cases to substitute pertness for vivacity, and to release from those salutary restraints, which were formerly considered as the ornament of youth. In laying aside the forbidding austerity of ancient manners, and that repulsive distance, at which young people were kept, an opposite extreme has been generated, and a doubt arises whether the improvement is so great, as may appear on first view. I am no advocate for the old system, there

is much in it deserving of condemnation, but are we altogether gainers by the change? In former times probably the young people, who were much left to themselves, were perhaps in their separate societies, as noisy and indecorous as any of the present day; but the youth now should prize the privilege of being allowed to mix in company on equal terms. They should not abuse this liberty, and by their vociferations stun the ears of their seniors, who may be reasonably allowed to expect that common sense, and improving, and interesting subjects, should not be altogether banished from conversation, to make way for that noisy mirth, the pert witticisms, and that almost total absence of what may be denominated *mind*, which too generally characterize modern manners. In the present day, Miss just set loose from the fashionable boarding school, is eager to display her accomplishments, her drawings, her music, and those things, well enough in their subordinate places, with which girls are now tricked out as artists, and which they are in danger of mistaking for the solid acquirements of real usefulness.

"Knowledge is proud, that she has learned so much,
Wisdom is humble, that she knows no more."

But the germ of future improvement is wanting; the really useful talents of the mind, that call forth reflection, and constitute wisdom, are not brought into action. These ephemera buzz and amuse, while the season of youth lasts, but as they are making no preparation for acting their future important parts well, they trifle away youth, and lose the season of improvement; for in youth only are the materials for future usefulness laid up. "If the spring put forth no blossoms, in summer there will be no beauty, and in autumn no fruit." It is frequently alleged in the cant of conversation, which affixes no precise, or well defined meaning to words, that youth must have their season of folly. Never was a more unwise sentiment expressed. It is not to be presumed that the pursuits of youth and age will be alike, nor is it necessary that they should be entirely regulated by one

standard. I am not so unreasonable as to class the innocent pleasantries of youth, under the harsh term of folly. I object only to passing the boundaries of right by levities leading almost imperceptibly into indiscretions, or suffering mirth so far to encroach as to leave a small portion of time for reflection, and acquiring useful knowledge.

"See how the world its veterans rewards,
A youth of frolics, an old age of cards;
Fair to no purpose, artful to no end,
Young without lovers, old without a friend."

My observations have hitherto been confined to the female sex. Young men in addition to the levities common to both, have more serious dangers to encounter, inasmuch as the tone of fashionable manners allows them a much greater latitude, and unwisely permits an injudicious relaxation of the moral code on their parts, to pass with very little reprehension; so that young men seldom stop at the threshold, but often plunge deeply into vice. The habit of drinking, begun through a deference to custom, and persisted in through a false shame of appearing singular in the right, till a fatal inclination is often acquired, is generally the introducer to those irregular courses.

Suitable female society has a powerful tendency to lead young men from the grossness of this vice, and in general to refine their manners, and all young men who can have this privilege, should not fail thankfully to avail themselves of it. The poet, Cowper, furnishes a strong instance of the benefits of the society of polished females. We admire the neatness and elegance of this poet, who was so well skilled in the anatomy of the human mind. It is a curious speculation to indulge in a calculation, how far he was indebted to his female friends for the delicate polish of his poetry, and what the difference might have been, if he had continued the solitary and comfortless tenant of chambers in the Middle Temple. The sexes are necessary for the mutual improvement of each other. I wish both sexes by a more full cultivation of their minds, to raise

the tone of conversation to a higher pitch. A judicious course of reading communicates new ideas, to supply conversation, and to prevent that sameness and insipidity, which too often occur in the conversation of those who seek for no fresh supplies to defecate and purify the channels of colloquial intercourse. Conversation too often resembles either the muddy current, polluted with the impurities of the surrounding banks, or the mountain stream, rapid and contracted, tumbling over the intervening obstructions with noisy and tumultuous roar. It is the smooth, deep river, flowing equably, and acquiring in its progress the addition of fresh contributory streams, that is so highly useful and truly ornamental.

Youth read too much for mere amusement, without considering the ulterior and higher objects of future improvement. Hence novels are the favourite food, generally unsubstantial, and not nutritive, and not unfrequently like the champignon or mushroom, concealing poison under a pleasant taste. I am not so rigid a censor as entirely to forbid novels, for I have known a few good ones, but I object to the indiscriminate reading of all the trash published under this name, with an appetite as voracious as the dragon of Wantley Churches, of whom it is sung, that in his attacks when,

"He used to come on a Sunday,
Whole congregations were to him,
As a dish of salmungundi."

Novels too often give false pictures of life, and have led many a youthful mind to fatal errors. They too frequently inculcate the omnipotence of love, and all the fanciful poetical ideas of it, which have passed current among silly writers, who have borrowed from one another, without the trouble of invention, or of examining how far their fictions agree with the realities of life.

Without confounding the good with the bad, and excluding all, I would recommend a very select and sparing use of novels in a course of youthful reading; let the works of our best poets form also a part, but in these also there is need of selection, for

some of the poetical tribe, have strangely mistaken indelicacy for wit; history, moral, and philosophical productions, should also form a part of a juvenile library for both sexes; I would also recommend such writings as Dugald Stewart's *Elements of the Philosophy of the Human Mind*.—Works of this class tend to elevate us to a more correct view of our moral constitution, and our mental frame, and without bewildering us in the labyrinths of metaphysics, bring us to be better acquainted with ourselves.

Such a course of reading, although some may consider it as of too severe a cast, would soon become pleasant to us. The force of habit is a deep-rooted principle in the human mind, and may be happily brought to the aid of fixing virtue. It is a maxim, the foundation of which is deeply laid in our nature, "choose that path which is best and custom will soon render it the most agreeable."

A well directed plan of study steadily persevered in, would increase the advantages of conversation, and improve our "youth, they might learn from the wisdom of age" while the seniors would be far from despising "to be cheered by the sallies of youth." *Knowledge is power*, and the more is acquired by reading, the higher are the conversational powers improved, and the greater interest is given to conversation, by the ability to furnish more materials to embellish it. *Ignorance is weakness*, and the less is known the less pleasing conversation becomes, till as the human mind must be employed, noise is substituted for sense, and sound for substance, so that in general it may be safely asserted that where noisy mirth most generally prevails, sterling sense is most wanting. An unfurnished house produces the greatest echo, and an empty cask the loudest sound.

Youth educated according to the best modes of the present system, I consider as superior to those produced under the old system. I am not an admirer of times past; the old fashioned embroidery, and the laborious trifling of antiquated needle-work,

are fit emblems of the ancient mode of education. I compare the present system, to the superficial, but lighter efforts of the needle, in the present day in which usefulness is too much sacrificed to show, but in which there is still something to please by its neat variety. The one was too cumbersome, and the other too superficial. I wish to see the infusion of more *mind*. In running from one extreme, let us not fall into the opposite.

Our ancestors raised the massy pillar, and the heavy unwieldy wall, which by its extreme thickness almost excluded the light, and gave to the interior of the house, a most gloomy appearance. The moderns run up their houses with thin walls, slight partitions, and in some instances without party-walls to separate adjoining houses, with fronts almost entirely of glass, so as to make the internal arrangement dazzling and glittering; but security and usefulness are sacrificed to show. The comparison holds with respect to the ancient and modern systems of education. Both have their striking defects. My aim would be to combine the substantial security of the one, with the neat lightness of the other, and equally to remove the gloominess of the cloyster, and the frippery of the modern edifice, scarcely able to bear the attacks, with which the rude blasts of an inclement sky, are liable to visit it.

After witnessing the noisy mirth, and the too great freedom of modern manners, the reflecting mind is sometimes driven back to wish for a return of the stiff and precise manners of former days, but a little further reflection convinces that this relapse would not essentially improve the state of society, for if there were formerly a greater appearance of decorum in manners, this show was much owing to what was disagreeable being more kept out of view, and hypocritical covering chiefly made the difference. Therefore instead of *retrograding*, I would strongly recommend an improvement of the present system, retaining its neatness, and lightness, but increasing its strength by a higher tone of morality, and a greater degree of intellectual improvement. K.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

Rules and Regulations for the House of Industry, in Belfast, laid before a general meeting of the town for their approbation, and unanimously agreed to.

TO THE PUBLIC.

THE result of an experiment hitherto untried in Ireland, is about to be laid before the public.—The committee appointed to carry into effect the plan for the abolition of mendicity in Belfast, feel themselves called upon, on resigning their charge, to give a brief statement of the progress they have made, the obstacles by which they have been impeded, together with their causes, and the probable means of their removal.

The measures adopted for the attainment of the design proposed were, to ascertain the number and actual circumstances of the professed beggars who had so long infested the streets, to procure a place for their reception, and to supply them with work. As to the first of these points, the numbers experienced a surprizing decrease as soon as the institution began to be acted upon. Many fled from the town, preferring a life of vagrant indolence abroad, to one of honest industry at home, and of those who remained, few were found totally incapable of contributing to their own support. A house, where work could be served out and taken in, for the employment of such as could not be separated from their families, and in which many could be employed under the immediate inspection of the committee, was fortunately procured on reasonable terms, and fitted up in the cheapest manner. But the procuring of employment for a class of society, most of whom, through long habits of idleness, were unwilling, and, in a great measure, incapable to exert themselves, proved, and still continues to prove, a point of considerable difficulty: Wheels and reels for spinning flax were given out to those who could make use of them, and the remainder, consisting of children, or aged and decrepit persons, are employed in preparing oakum. In addition to these, some cotton looms

have been fitted up, and some young women are at present weaving; it is also intended to introduce the spinning of wool, and the knitting of various articles of wearing apparel. No other branches of manufacture are at present in contemplation, as, instead of distracting their attention by directing it to a variety of objects at once, the committee wish to reduce those already undertaken to a regular system, to which such new branches as may hereafter present themselves, can be annexed easily, and without confusion.

On inspecting the state of the poor, in order to select proper objects for this institution, it was found that to make it permanently useful, it must be extended much beyond its first intended limits.—Its design was not merely to clear the streets of mendicants, but if possible to abolish mendicity by preventing or removing its causes. Numbers were found who, though they did not parade their wretchedness before the public eye, were equal, if not greater objects of compassion than the noisy claimants on the public purse. These, if neglected, must at length have proved a burden to the town, and have succeeded to the place of such as had been already removed from the streets. It was therefore resolved to include indigent room-keepers in the rules of the institution, and to give them the same advantages as the others.

When the returns of the general inspection were made, the paupers were found to be naturally divided into three classes: first, those wholly incapable of work from age and chronic diseases, for whom the poor-house was considered to be the proper asylum; secondly the sick, who are relieved at the fever hospital and dispensary;* and thirdly, those who

* It is hoped that this valuable institution, which has in a great degree checked the progress of contagion, and alleviated much misery in the lower classes, will meet with a due degree of attention from the public. The present infirmary, from the increasing magnitude of the town, is too small for the numerous applicants for relief. The erecting of a new building on an enlarged scale, capable of admitting

can in some degree contribute to their own support, who are the proper objects for the house of industry. For these, a constant supply of work is furnished, and full and immediate payment given; and the more effectually to relieve them, a quantity of cheap nutritious broth is furnished out to them daily, as also a small weekly allowance of coals and potatoes, not sufficient indeed for their entire support, but enough to prevent actual suffering from the extremes of cold and hunger, and to stimulate to industry, by a consciousness of having something certain to depend upon. Yet, notwithstanding the assistance thus furnished, the committee have remarked with regret, that many persons on their list use every art to return to their former occupation, and by exaggeration and falsehood, endeavour to excite prejudice against the institution by which they are enabled to maintain themselves in comparative comfort.—Twice, indeed, a deficiency of materials occurred, through the inexperience of the committee, and for some time wheels could not be procured in sufficient numbers, but every day has removed some obstacle of this nature, and renders the recurrence of similar circumstances more unlikely. It is also a fact, as curious as unaccountable, that an almost insurmountable prejudice against seeking for the shelter and support offered by the poor-house universally prevails. There is scarcely one of the poorest, most friendless outcasts, who would not prefer pining, nay in some instances even perishing in a miserable hovel, to enjoying the cleanly, well regulated comforts of that excellent establishment.*

tering relief in all the various species of disease is absolutely necessary, if the public would continue to derive from it the same benefits it has hitherto enjoyed.

*The only probable cause to which this can be attributed, is the repugnance felt by persons long accustomed to live in an uncontrolled manner, against the restraints necessarily imposed for the sake of order and regularity on the inmates of such an extensive establishment.

Another cause which has impeded the endeavours of the committee fully to effect their objects by clearing the streets of strolling vagrants, is the difficulty attending their apprehension and confinement. The powers for this purpose are vested by law in the directors of the poor house; and though these gentlemen have given every assistance to the house of industry, yet there arises hence a complexity and delay very inconvenient to men of business, who cannot dedicate an extraordinary portion of time and trouble to a part of their public duty most painful to a feeling heart. But it is hoped that the regulations on this head, now laid before the public, will do away the recurrence of such practices in future.

Before they conclude this address, the committee wish to impress most forcibly on the minds of the inhabitants of Belfast, the two following points. First, that it is absolutely necessary for the continuance of this institution, whose salutary effects have been already experienced, even while it is struggling through all the embarrassments of an untried, complicated experiment, that the public in general should take a lively, active interest in its concern. This is to be done by withholding any private relief from those paupers, who, while they are deriving a maintenance from the house of industry, endeavour, by fictitious tales of distress, to raise an additional support from the compassion of individuals; every person also, who has any time at his disposal, and there are few who cannot command some portion of it, should devote a part to this purpose. The burden has hitherto been borne by a few: they have supported it with zeal and cheerfulness. But although the trouble and time requisite to keep the machine in motion will not be equal to what is now demanded for the primary arrangement of its several parts, it is not to be expected that the same persons can always persevere unassisted, and in a great measure unsupported. Of a deficiency of pecuniary funds no apprehension is entertained—the long experienced cha-

acter of this town, which always estimates the extent of its liberality by the utility of the end to be attained, prevents the probability of such a calamity. It is also confidently expected that the manufactures carried on will in time delay, if not the whole, at least the greater part of the annual expenditure. But personal exertion is wanted: that public spirited energy which impels a man to sacrifice a little of his own ease and indulgence to the good of his fellows is absolutely necessary to prevent the institution from dwindling into insignificance, or proving totally abortive. In making this appeal to their fellow citizens, the committee think it necessary to state, that in hopes of ensuring the regular and zealous patronage and assistance of a body of men, whose profession devotes them peculiarly to the relief of the poor, the clergy of every religious persuasion, in the town and vicinity, were publicly invited to join in this attempt at alleviating the miseries, and improving the condition, of the most desolate portion of the community, and to this effect were made honorary members of the committee. They are now again publicly called upon to take a constant, active share, in a scheme, which, from the trial now made, promises to become, if properly supported, a powerful engine to promote what is their peculiar aim—the moral improvement of the lower classes of society.*

The other point just alluded to is this, that in order, not merely to check the growth of mendicity at present, but to cut it up by the roots, to come at the very source and spring of the evil that rankles in the vitals of every large town, more particularly of such as owe

their increase to manufactures, the morals of the rising generation must be a primary object of attention. This desirable end may now be easily accomplished by engrafting on the present institution, a system of plain, wholesome education, suited to the wants of the lower orders.* Those to whom the house of industry directs its attention, are, in a manner, the outcasts of society—neglected, almost disowned by all others, their children grow up in the habits of vice and profligacy exhibited by their parents; habits, confirmed by the impressions of early infancy, and augmented by new scenes of increasing corruption daily presented to their eyes. To make the plan now devised perfect, it is necessary not only to feed the poor and give work to the unemployed, but to impress on them fixed principles of sound vital morality.—By such means a great and happy change may be gradually effected in the condition of that class to whom the rich owe their wealth, and the country its support. The plan as it now stands connects the different ranks of the community by the closest bands—the poor behold in the wealthy their protectors, while the rich, by the constant minute inspection into the state of the poor, maintain a kind of police, which cannot fail of putting a stop to much of the outrage that disgraces every large town. The constant check will act as a preventative—the consciousness of being well known and closely observed will be a bar to temptation and a strong incentive to industrious emulation. By annexing to it the improvement now suggested, the generation that succeeds the present, will enter into active life with principles the most beneficial to society. Their actions will correspond to the feelings from which they spring: their industry cannot but be successful, because it will be excited by proper motives and directed to worthy ends.

* It is also hoped that such persons as feel the force of these remarks, and wish to ensure the success of this institution, will come forward with a voluntary offer of their services. A new committee is about to be chosen, and it is the earnest desire of every friend to the plan, that it should be entirely composed of persons willing to devote to its affairs a constant share of their time and thoughts.

* The success attending this system of education, though on a confined scale, in the Sunday School, is sufficient to evince the utility of the plan now proposed.

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE HOUSE OF INDUSTRY.

Preliminary Remarks.

This institution is intended for the relief of such indigent persons as are not altogether incapable of labour; the poor-house being the proper receptacle for the aged and infirm, where they can be supported for a sum much less than would be requisite from any other means.

The house of industry is therefore designed to abolish mendicity, and, as far as possible, to prevent its recurrence, by discouraging idleness, affording means to industry, and furnishing partial relief, where the earnings of the poor are not sufficient for their support.

To effect these objects, work will be provided; but as the intention of such an institution is to afford temporary rather than permanent employment, to stimulate to domestic industry, rather than stand in lieu of it, the branches of labour embraced by it should be few and simple, and the reward always less than to afford temptation to neglect their accustomed modes of subsistence. The labour should therefore be confined to spinning linen and woollen yarn, knitting, picking oakum, and such other species of work as affords the readiest means of employing a number of hands, risking the least loss on the change or removal of the workers, which will be constantly taking place, and being attended with less trouble in the management.

General Meeting.

A general meeting of the inhabitants shall be summoned, by public notice, on the second Thursday in January, to take into consideration the general state of the institution, receive the report of the last committee, elect a new one, and make any new regulations that may be deemed necessary.

Ten days previous to the annual meeting, a correct statement of the receipt and expenditure, with profit or loss on manufactures and labour performed in the establishment, shall be laid before the public, signed by the committee of accounts.

The business of the general meeting

shall be conducted in the following order:—

I. The sovereign, or, in his absence, any other inhabitant whom the meeting may choose, shall be called to the chair.

II. The chairman of the old committee shall read a report of their proceedings and state of the funds.

III. Any incidental business may be discussed.

IV. The members who are to compose the committee for the ensuing year, will be elected according to the rules laid down under that head.

Of the Committee.

The general committee shall consist of thirty.

Ten of these shall vacate their places, and the number be supplied by ballot at the annual meeting, after the following manner:—

One month previous to the general meeting, the committee shall select from among the inhabitants of the town in general, twenty persons, who appear to them suitable for the office, and who have expressed their willingness to act to a sub-committee appointed for that purpose.

Lists of the candidates to fill the vacancies shall be prepared, and furnished to the general meeting, not, however, to interfere with the right of every individual present from voting for any person not so recommended.

In case any of the thirty members of the committee be incapacitated from acting, by absence, or a continuance of ill health, that person of the twenty, balloted for at the general meeting, having the next greatest number of votes after the ten elected, shall be called to fill his place, and so in succession.

From the committee shall be chosen, by ballot, a treasurer, and three sub-committees of three each, viz.—

A committee of distributions,

A committee of industry, and

A committee of accounts.

The remaining twenty members of the committee shall be sub-divided into ten sections of weekly directors, one of whom shall retire at the end of each week.

The general committee shall meet at the house at ten o'clock on

Saturday in each week; at their meetings, which shall be open to all subscribers, the director who retires will preside, or in his absence, the other director; in case both are absent, the director who vacated his place last, as from them may be expected such information as will be necessary to guide the committee in their deliberations.

Of the Collectors.

Immediately after the general meeting, the committee shall nominate gentlemen to collect the annual subscriptions, in which duty they will be assisted by the visitors in their different districts.

Respectability of character, and zeal for the institution are requisites most necessary in collectors; they shall make their collections, and return the amount to the treasurer on or before the last Saturday in March.

Of the Treasurer.

The treasurer shall receive the annual subscriptions from the collectors.

He shall give to the steward, from time to time, such sums as shall be ordered by the general committee, which order shall be signed by the chairman of the day, and at least two of the committee of accounts.

Of the Sub-committees.

The committee of distributions shall meet every Monday evening at eight o'clock. The duty of this committee shall be to provide the establishment with the sundry articles dispensed to the poor, as coals, potatoes, and ingredients for the soup kitchen.

Cases of sudden and unexpected distress, which cannot be referred to the general rules, shall come under the cognizance of the committee. When any such case occurs, the visitors shall give a note of it to the steward, to be immediately referred to this committee, who will grant such temporary relief as they shall deem necessary. In order that a steady regularity be preserved in the expenditure, and while the ends in view are obtained, that the funds should be strictly husbanded, this committee will apportion, and revise, from time to time as circum-

stances may demand, the quantum of rations,* which shall be distributed in the several districts, according to the necessity and number requiring relief in each.

As these duties require the utmost economy and care, to prevent them becoming secret inlets to idleness, it is recommended in the strongest manner, that the general committee pay the utmost attention to select members, possessed of the necessary qualifications, of zeal, sagacity in detecting impostures, and fortitude in resisting importunity; as also that they be constant residents in the town.

The Committee of Industry shall meet every Tuesday evening at eight o'clock. Their duty shall be to provide the establishment with raw materials for labour, and dispose of manufactured articles, which shall be done in all possible cases by contract and proposal, taking care that the raw material be constantly supplied in sufficient quantity.

They shall purchase wheels, reels, and every other article necessary in the manufactories.

The committee of accounts shall meet every Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock.

Their duty is to inspect, and audit the books, see that they are regularly posted, examine accounts furnished, order payment, and prepare the annual statement of receipt and expenditure.

Each of these sub-committees shall keep minutes of their proceedings in books for the purpose, which shall be constantly before the general committee at their weekly meeting.

Of the weekly Directors.

The first director shall have the general superintendence of the labour internal and external.

In cases of misconduct, he shall have the power of fining to the amount of half a day's earnings.

In more heinous cases, or for perseverance in misconduct, he shall report the offence to the committee, and the punishment he thinks requi-

* A ration of soup or potatoes is one quart.—A ration of coals is one gallon, &c.

site, whether, it be public admonition, or dismissal for a stated length of time.

The second director shall attend to the daily distribution of soup, and weekly distribution of coals and potatoes, taking care that the rations are served out in a cleanly, regular, and orderly manner; and in no instance deviate from the quantities stated in the visitors' tickets, when regularly filled and countersigned.

The two directors shall attend every day at ten o'clock, to inspect and countersign the visitors' tickets; and they shall sign none when the applicant is not present to answer such questions as they propose.

At the end of each week the directors will severally report on the general progress of the institution, and note any improvement they think necessary for the decision of the general committee; but in no case to retire from the direction without making a report on the state of their particular department.

Of the Visitors.

The town within the lamps shall be divided into ten districts, in each district, two of the weekly directors will also officiate as visitors—The selection shall be regulated by the local convenience of the visitor's residence.

They shall keep regular and correct reports of the state of the poor receiving assistance from the house in their districts.

These reports shall remain constantly in the house for the inspection of the committee. For the visitor's own convenience, it is recommended that he should keep a small book ruled in columns as the report.

When applied to for work, he shall grant the regular certificate and recommendation which when signed, shall be presented at the steward's office at ten o'clock, for the decision of the weekly directors.

On application for assistance in rations from the house, and being satisfied of the exigency of the case, they will grant tickets for proportionate relief, accompanying it with the recommendation properly filled, which recommendation and ticket shall be presented, as in the former

case for work. No alteration shall however be made in any district while the visitors of it act as weekly directors, except in cases of urgent necessity, which must be approved at the first meeting of the general committee.

The visitors in granting relief, are enjoined to observe the following rules:—

I. No person who has not been constantly resident in Belfast for twelve months previous, shall receive aid from this institution, except in cases of extraordinary distress, which shall be referred to the committee of distributions.

II. No family, the father of which is resident, and able to work, shall receive distributions from the house. They may nevertheless be admitted to work; but in no case shall assistance be given to any who have children of an age to contribute to their own support that remain idle.

III. All old infirm people, altogether unfit for labour, are cases for the poor-house; but where they prefer remaining out, with relatives or friends, who can afford them some support, they may receive partial assistance from the house.

No family or families, using the same fire, shall in any case receive more than six rations of coals per week.

IV. In distributing potatoes and soup, it is suggested that one ration (see note page 265) for an adult, and a half ration for each child unable to work per day, would in the worst cases be sufficient; but as it is altogether impossible to prescribe the exact relief required in every particular case, it must rest principally at the discretion of the visitors, who should constantly bear in mind that the grand object of the institution is to introduce habits of industry, order, and cleanliness among the lower classes.

Of the Steward.

The steward shall keep the keys of the house, and have the immediate superintendence of the whole, under the inspection of the committee.

He shall keep the regular books of accounts, and other necessary books, which he shall be particular to have

posted daily; that this duty may not interfere with the other business of the day, it shall be done in the evenings after the workers quit the house.

His hours of attendance shall be from six o'clock morning, to nine o'clock evening, allowing from nine to half-past nine for breakfast, and from two to three to dinner.

His office shall be open every day for the delivery and receipt of the manufactures, from ten to one, and from three to five, Thursday excepted, on which day no work will be delivered or received after twelve o'clock.

He shall be constant in the inspection of the working rooms, and the other internal departments of the house, and carefully report every instance of misconduct.

He shall be present at the daily distribution of soup, and the weekly distribution of coals and potatoes.

He shall have the direction of the servants of the establishment, subject to the controul of the committee.

He shall cause all the manufactured articles, received on the day previous, to be counted, assorted, put up in lots, and numbered, each day before the breakfast hour, that this duty may not interrupt the other business.

He shall issue notices for special meetings of the committee, and sub-committees, and shall give timely notice to every gentleman engaged in the affairs of the institution, of any appointment he may receive, or of any duty allotted him to perform.

He shall take care to have posted up in the most public parts of the house, such regulations as may be necessary for the general information of the workers.

He shall lay all accounts furnished to the house, before the committee of accounts, at their weekly meeting, to be approved and signed by them before payment.

He shall be responsible, that all the business of the day be transacted at the times, and in the manner directed by these regulations, and in no instance deviate therefrom, unless by express desire of the committee.

Of the Gate Keeper.

The gate keeper shall take particular notice of every worker going in and out, so as to prevent any property of the institution being purloined.

He shall permit none to leave the house, except at the usual hour of dismissal, unless by special leave of the steward, or director; nor shall he admit any that have not business, without permission from the Steward or director.

Of the Kitchen.

The cook shall have the superintendence of the kitchen, under the direction of the steward.

She shall not allow any of the workers, either internal or external, into the kitchen, which she shall be careful to keep clean, rid up and orderly.

She shall make the soup according to the printed directions, which shall be hung up in the kitchen, for the inspection of the members, and shall have it ready for delivery every day at one o'clock.

Of the Distributions.

Soup shall be distributed every day, Sunday excepted, precisely at one o'clock; this distribution will always cease at two, that the other business of the house may not be interrupted.

On Thursday in each week, at twelve o'clock, the distribution of coals and potatoes will take place, beginning alternately at the first district and ending at the last, and beginning at the last and ending at the first; tickets regularly signed by the visitors, and counter-signed by the directors, being always required to entitle the bearer to these distributions.

Of Labour.

The species of labour to be practised, shall for the present, be confined to the spinning of flax and wool, knitting, and picking oakum.

When any person applies for a wheel, flax, wool, or knitting yarn, the visitor shall give them the printed recommendation for that purpose to be signed by some respectable inhabitant of the town or neighbourhood; when signed, it is to be returned to the visitors,

and countersigned by them; the applicant will then present it at the steward's office, at ten o'clock (morning) for the approval and signature of the weekly directors. If approved by them, it will be entered, numbered, and filed on the district file for reference hereafter.

To persons having flax wheels, one pound of flax shall be delivered at once, for the spinning of which they shall receive as follows:

For yarn of two hanks to the pound*

Ditto of three ditto,

Ditto of four ditto,

Ditto of five ditto,

Ditto of six ditto,

To persons having wool wheels, two pounds of wool will be delivered at a time, for the spinning of which they shall receive—

To persons applying for yarn to knit, one pound will be delivered at once, for which they shall receive as follows:

For men's stockings, inches long,

Women's ditto, ditto,

Children's ditto, ditto,

Men's mitts, without fingers,

Ditto, with fingers,

Men's night-caps,

Petticoats,

Gaiters,

These prices shall be revised from time to time, at the discretion of the committee, and according to the price of the materials.

No wheel, reel, or flax, shall remain with any spinner after she ceases to return to the house two hanks per week, unless for reasons to be satisfactorily accounted for to the visitor.

In like manner, no wool wheel, or wool, shall remain out, after the possessor ceases to deliver three pounds of wool per week, unless satisfactorily explained, as above; nor shall any knitter receive yarn, who does not return one pound weight of knitting per week.

Flax, wool, and knitting yarn, shall be delivered and received by weight; great care being observed that the workers do not practice frauds in their returns, by augmenting the weight, by grease, water and other means.

* These blanks to be filled up from time to time as the committee may judge right.

Picking Oakum.

Persons desiring to be employed in the house at oakum may be admitted, on producing the customary recommendation these recommendations will be numbered and filed on the oakum file, and the bearer will be informed of his number, and designated and paid by it during his stay in the house. The pickers shall be arranged in each room according to their number, over which there shall be an overseer appointed to prevent noise, and preserve order and regularity, who shall report every instance of impropriety to the steward or first director.

For every pound of well picked oakum, the worker shall receive on delivery.

The pickers shall be paid, and their work received from the first on the list to the last, and from the last to the first alternately.

Their hours for work shall be from six in the morning, till six in the evening, in summer, and from seven till five in winter.

They shall be allowed one hour, from nine till ten, for breakfast, and from two till three, for dinner each day.

Note—The aforementioned working hours are equally applicable to all internal workers about the establishment; at no other hours shall they enter or depart, unless by permission of the steward, or committee, who shall cause the roll to be called at eight o'clock morning, in the winter, and at six o'clock in summer, and at ten and three every day.

Of Rewards.

On the first Saturday in April, and the first Saturday in October, premiums shall be adjudged by the general committee to the most industrious, according to the following rules:—

To persons having one child under two years, for the greatest quantity of yarn returned to the house, of which none must have been deficient in count or weight, £1.

For the second greatest quantity, 15s.

For the third do. 10s.

To the person returning the greatest quantity of linen yarn, not having a child under two years. 15s.

For the second greatest quantity, 10s.
 For the third greatest do. 5s.
 To the person returning the greatest quantity in weight, of woollen yarn, in a dry and sound state, £1.
 For the second greatest quantity, 15s.
 For the third greatest do. 10s.
 To the person who has received from the house, the greatest sum for knitting, £1.
 For the second greatest sum, 15s.
 For the third do. 10s.

These premiums when awarded shall invariably be lodged with the visitors of the district, in which the person so obtaining resides, who shall be instructed to expend the same in necessary articles of cloaths, bedding, &c for their use.

Of the apprehending of Vagrants.

A sufficient number of constables shall be appointed by the committee of the poor-house, according to the form directed by the act of parliament to apprehend vagrants, under the direction of the committee of the house of industry.

An office shall be opened at a central part of the town, where a sufficient number of these licensed constables shall be in constant waiting from in the morning, to at night, in readiness to act when called on by a member of the committee.

When any member of the committee shall observe any vagrant begging, he shall immediately leave at the office a written order, describing the person he wished to have apprehended; and the constable in waiting shall immediately proceed to seize the person so described, and when identified by the person issuing the order, shall lodge him or her in the poor-house or house of correction; and in doing so, they shall take with them the order for the arrest, which shall be considered sufficient authority to the gate-keeper and steward of the poor-house, for the admission of the person apprehended.*

* In case any of the constables shall be assaulted in the execution of their duty, he shall make a report of it to the committee at their next weekly meeting, and proper steps shall immediately be taken to punish the offender.

These orders thus issued shall be laid before the committee at their weekly meeting, together with a report of the manner in which they have been executed; and in case any of the persons described in them, be not lodged in the poor-house, or house of correction, the constable shall be subject to the penalty of for every such omission, unless he can give a satisfactory reason for it to the committee.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

SAINCLAIR,

Continued from p. 83, No. XIX.

SHE had already had the glory of exhibiting some pictures in the rooms at the Louvre, through the influence of a celebrated painter (for at that time this honour was granted to amateurs with difficulty) Sainclair was not ignorant of this: he knew also, that Clotilda was labouring with ardour for the next exhibition, which was to take place in a month. Duval who did not partake of Sainclair's enthusiasm for Clotilda, openly combated his inclination. "So," said he, "at last, notwithstanding your vow, you are going to espouse a woman of celebrity." "I am not quite decided yet; but remember it is not the arts I hate: what displeases me is the importance amateurs attach to trifling successes, and to inferior talents: it is that unbridled self love, which so entirely changes the feeling female soul, as to make it capable of sacrificing its dearest affections." "Do you think Clotilda, is free from this vanity?" "It has not hardened her heart however; she can love. Painting is only her amusement. If vanity has not turned her head, it must be from humility then, that she exhibits publicly her pictures, beside those of the greatest masters." "No; she follows through a kind of indolence, a ridiculous example, which is but too common at this time; as to any thing else, my sentiments for her, have not in the least changed my notions with respect to amateurs; my opinions on that head are as severe as ever. It is asserted that amateurs should meet with more indulgence, than professed artists; be

it so, when in company, complaisance alone obliges them to an exhibition of their talents; but when they voluntarily exhibit in public, it is natural to judge more severely of them, than of artists. The second, and even the third rank is a place of honour. An artist of the middle rank may be very much esteemed; he does not show himself in public from presumption; it is an obligation on him, which constitutes his situation, which makes his existence. But the amateur, who produces himself, if he be not justified by the first rate talents, takes an inconsiderate step which almost always proves a ridiculous vanity. Besides, how can I feel a wish to criticise with severity, the picture of an artist; I know he cannot sell it at a high price; justice is done to him then: but the amateur, who does not sell his productions, cannot gain any information from the offers of purchasers; and when I see him in a public exhibition, place his picture between those of Guerin and Gerard, I feel strongly tempted to ridicule him; while, if I had found this same work in his own cabinet, or that of a friend, I would have praised it with pleasure." "Let us add, that your amateur painters of high pretensions are always under suspicion of obtaining a little help in their labours." "Clotilda is incapable of such deceit." "Every one does not judge so favourably of her." "She is too handsome and too amiable not to excite envy." "You will marry her, I am convinced." "But; I wish to reflect on the matter yet, and in the case of Albina, I did not hesitate." "Oh! how much better she would have suited you." "I feel it but too deeply, and it was to disengage myself from so dangerous a recollection, that I wish to form another engagement." "But you ought to make a good choice." "At least I promise you, not to do any thing in a hurry."

Some short time after this conversation, Sainclair heard late at night, that Clotilda's sister had just expired. Clotilda, having remained in her usual security, could not, as had been foreseen, receive her last sigh: she was in the country, six leagues from

Paris; the messenger sent by the dying person, arrived at the time, when Clotilda was acting in a private play.

The mistress of the house, to prevent disturbing the pleasures of the party, not only took good care, that the performance should not be interrupted by informing Clotilda, that her sister was in the last agonies, but resolved to keep the arrival of the messenger unknown till the next morning.

Thus Clotilda did not see the person who came to hasten her return, until fourteen or fifteen hours after her sister's death. These things were circumstantially told to Sainclair, and it was added that Clotilda had given herself up to the most violent despair. This account moved Sainclair very much. It was too late to go and make any inquiries about the inconsolable Clotilda; and an affair of the greatest consequence was, the next day to employ Sainclair's whole morning.

Before he went to bed, he wrote to Clotilda, to inform her, that he was compelled to leave home very early the next morning, and to spend almost the whole day at St. Germain's: he therefore could not present himself at her house before nine in the evening. The next morning however he received a note, which freed him from the obligation of going to St. Germain's, and consequently left him to dispose of his day as he pleased.—At ten in the morning therefore, he hastened to Clotilda's, without any previous notice. Clotilda, believing she should not see him till evening, had not in the least expected him; but she had put him on her list;—so he was immediately admitted. He was detained some minutes in the with-drawing room; after which a servant maid led him into Clotilda's chamber, where he found her lying on a couch. He was touched to the bottom of his soul, on seeing her with her hair dishevelled, pale (for she was not rouged) spiritless, one hand holding a smelling bottle, and the other holding a handkerchief to her eyes, her immoveable attitude, the disorder of her dress, her groans and sobs, caused in him an inexpressible trouble: he stood speechless for some instants; and when he could speak, Clotilda

must have conceived from the great alteration in his voice, how deeply he was affected.

Her plaintive accents became so heart-rending, that the kind hearted Sainclair was melted into tears; but it was with terror he perceived, that Clotilda did not shed a single tear: he was not ignorant how dangerous *tearless grief* is, and he attributed the suffocation, she seemed to labour under, to this impossibility of weeping: he in vain conjured her to take some drops. "Ah!" cried Clotilda, "there is no remedy for such sorrow! I have been in the situation you see, from the moment I learned my misfortune; it is a thunder stroke which has thrown me to the ground; I need not wail; I know not if I suffer;—I am annihilated; all my faculties are extinguished; I no longer exist! ah! leave me in this happy stupor, you cannot draw me out of it without hurling me headlong into the most violent despair."

At these words Sainclair, penetrated with tenderness and love, threw himself on his knees, and seized one of Clotilda's hands. In doing this he stirred a small table, which happened to be near the couch, and a pallet full of colours fell on her feet. "Heavens!" she exclaimed, a pallet which beyond a doubt I must have placed there some days ago; a pallet! for pity's sake hide that odious object from me; it kills me." "How? a pallet?" "well a pallet! ah! it was she taught me to paint, and I passionately loved the art, only because I owed this talent to her." "Adorable Clotilda!" "Now the sight of an ousel, or a pallet recal such mournful recollections; but henceforth I will paint no more, I could not hold the pencil and live; alas! I had finished the picture she wished me to exhibit at the rooms, in about a fortnight—I owe this respect to her memory; but what interest can I take in any success it may have: she will no longer be there to enjoy it."

These words wrought Sainclair's enthusiasm to its height: he took the fatal pallet with the design of going to hide it in the neighbouring room; but unhappily he had the awkwardness

to let it fall on the knees and under the eyes of Clotilda. "Ah!" said she in a languishing voice, "how you distress me! I told you, I could not support this sight—it was here in this room, in this very spot that she saw me painting, that she gave me my pencils—it was she ground my colours; her hand put them on this pallet—ah Sainclair!"—

Here Clotilda fainted; Sainclair bewildered, sprang to the bell to call for help. A moment after the door opens, and what was Sainclair's surprise, when he saw Clotilda's page, a boy of about eight years old, run in, dressed as a Zephyr, he was in appropriate drapery; he had wings, and held a basket full of flowers.—On entering the room, he proceeded to place himself in attitude, saying, "do you wish, ma'am to resume your sitting?" "How," cried Sainclair, quite astonished, "what do you mean?" "Why sir," replied the boy, "Madame was painting this morning. I am the model, and I thought she wanted to finish her sitting, that was not quite completed, for when she sent me away, she told me not to undress myself: Ma'amselle Justine, had just come down; I was in her room, and on hearing Madame's bell I came." The little zephyr might have spoken for a much longer time, without interruption: Sainclair was little inclined thereto; astonishment and indignation had left him without motion: he was standing, and placed so as to hide Clotilda from the boy; he listened to him, and looked at him, preserving a melancholy silence!—Clotilda with her eyes shut, lying on the couch, was in a situation not less painful; the swoon did not give her an opportunity of cutting the imprudent Zephyr short in his narration, and dismissing him, while she might invent some plausible fiction: in the state, she assumed "stratagem, imagination, presence of mind, all the resources of artifice and genius were become completely useless. She was obliged to hear this terrible dialogue, without uttering a word, or daring to show the slightest mark of impatience, even flight was impossible.—Sainclair might well suppose, that she had feigned a swoon; but he

could believe that this unexpected scene had given reality to the fit, that had been acted at first.

In fine, remaining in this attitude, she was dispensed with, as to answering, and in this depth of humiliation, in this mortal embarrassment, it was something. After two or three minutes, Sainclair resumes—"what, did Madame paint this morning?"—"There," answered the boy; "there is the pallet yet before you on the table." "She *did* paint with this pallet!" "She did indeed, and she has two of them, Mr. G—— has the other." "G—— the painter?" "Precisely." "To work at Madame's picture, I'd wager?" "Oh! I do not know." The little fellow pronounced this falsehood with embarrassment. "My friend," said Sainclair, "tell me the truth; Madame is asleep; she will not hear us:"—"Is she asleep?" "Deep—hold, look now." "Ah! she is so, that is because she was up so early this morning." "Well now do not tell me a lie, does not Mr. G—— retouch your mistress's pictures? you may confess, your mistress hides nothing from me, she has so much candour; that if I asked her this question, she would answer me directly." "It is true," replied the boy, "Mr. G—— both begins and ends all Madame's pictures." At these words Clotilda could not hinder herself from making a motion, which frightened the boy exceedingly. "Ah heavens! Madame is awaking." "No, no," replied Sainclair, "it is only an unpleasant dream she has: but tell me yet, have you learned in confidence, what you have just told me?" "Oh! not at all: Madame believes, I do not know it; however I have seen it a thousand times. At this moment Mr. G—— is shut up in the little gallery and is all alone working at the picture." "Hark ye, if your mistress should happen to be displeased with you, when she awakes, and that she turns you off, you have only to come to me in Provence-street, at the *Chaussée d'Anten*; I will take care of you and apprentice you somewhere."—"Oh! I had rather do that, than be performing Zephyrs and Cupids. It is so wearisome to be standing for

three hours, with one's arm held up: it is summer yet; but last winter, Madame gave me a terrible cough." "how so?" "Because she made me remain entire mornings almost completely naked, from ten in the morning, till two in the afternoon, my only dress was an ell of gauze, and a garland of flowers—I was frozen." "It can not be love, that keeps you in this service then?" "no truly sir, I can assure you it is a severe fatigue." "Go and rest yourself in the anti-chamber; I shall speak to you again when I am going away." The little Zephyr went out running, and Sainclair, turning towards Clotilda, found her in the same attitude, still without motion, and with her eyes shut.

How divested of beauty she appeared to him now! With folded arms he contemplated her coldly for some instants; then breaking silence, "why madam," said he to her in a chill tone of voice, "why lose in inaction a time so precious, every moment of which ought to be consecrated to glory? learn to triumph over the grief, which overwhelms you; go find Mr. G. again, in order to finish the picture, which is to appear in a fortnight. You promised your departed sister to give it to the admiration of the public, *you owe this respect to her memory*—Take courage then, and resume this pallet, the colours of which were ground by a beloved hand; the mere sight of it has caused you to swoon; yet you have had the strength to use it; I expect this noble effort from you a second time—Do you think, by remaining silent and motionless, to persuade me, that you do not hear? you have just been pale, and now I see you redden; you answer me in spite of yourself!—Ah, if the most odious falsehood produced by an unbounded vanity, can be corrected, come out of this horrible abasement; cease to sport with the most natural and most sacred feelings, in order to give a transient celebrity to inferior productions—productions, which are not even your own. Renounce ridiculous pretensions, and do not, to the misfortune of an unfeeling heart, add

the voluntary crime of the most inconceivable hypocrisy. Farewell, madam, be at ease about the consequences of this adventure. I promise you—if not forgetfulness, secrecy at least."

At these words Sainclair delivered the wretched Clotilda from the most insupportable constraint and strangest confusion that ever a defeated and disappointed coquette experienced. He went out, and finding the little foot-boy in the antichamber still dressed, as Zephyr, he took him by the hand, and putting him into the carriage, brought him away: for he was justly apprehensive, that Clotilda, incensed by his indiscretion, would dismiss him her service.

Sainclair, after his transition so suddenly from admiration and love, to the coldest contempt, yet regretted the illusion he had lost, and was some time without wishing to hear marriage spoken of; at length, one of his relations proposed a young lady, who was rich, of an illustrious family, and had been reared in retirement by virtuous parents; and Sainclair, having ascertained, that she had no celebrity, permitted his friends to make some advances. These first negotiations were so successful, that the conversation soon turned on appointing some day for an interview; the day being fixed, Sainclair suffered himself to be led to the house of a counsellor of parliament, uncle and guardian to the young lady. He entered a beautiful room, advanced, and saw in the recess of the fire place, a little, dry, brown, sharp, ill-formed figure, whose deformity was rendered still more remarkable by the brilliancy of her dress. She had, depending low on her forehead, a diadem of large white cameos; her neck, which was excessively thin, was overcharged with collars, and gold chains, to which was suspended a great number of agate hearts and pebbles, purchased at Meller's, and worn with vanity, as ingenious and flattering emblems; her robe of a soft, transparent texture, and ornamented with gold fringe, accurately gave the outline of the most unfortunate shapes, and most irregular form: a large bouquet, composed of

roses, completed the elegance of this Grecian costume.

This youthful beauty, whose innocence nothing could disturb, received Sainclair not only without embarrassment, but with a little brisk air, which confounded him; she even became in a short time very lively and alluring; as her uncle, to enhance her value, had praised her gaiety very highly, she gave herself up to a thousand childish follies, which completely froze poor Sainclair. She was only sixteen years old; but childishness of manner is almost as ridiculous in young females, disgraced by nature, as in superannuated women; want of beauty should be replaced by reason and steadiness, and when youth is devoid of its freshness, and graces, all the qualities of a ripe age are expected from it. Sainclair shortened his visit, and, as he went, bethought himself of the prediction of his friend Duval.

In a short time after this first interview, Sainclair departed for——, where his regiment was in garrison. He hoped, that in a small provincial town, eighty leagues from Paris, he should at last find an amiable, unassuming woman; but on his arrival at——, he learned, that a small academy had been just established: this appeared an ill omen. In effect, he found there the same literary rage with fewer graces: for want of masters, they had not the mania for the arts; but all the males of the society were, according to their respective genius, poets, mineralogists, naturalists, economists, politicians, and almost all the females authors. It was soon reported in the town, that Sainclair was in search of a wife; and that he would not have either a wit, a learned woman, or an artist. This mode of thinking appeared the more strange, as this supposed dislike of the arts was very much exaggerated: but as Sainclair was amiable and rich, the only thought was, how to take advantage of so strange a mania. All at once, the young ladies, who had not yet conversed with Sainclair, exhibited the most surprizing change; their sole employment was to conceal their wit and learning; they became all

at once quite modest; they passed suddenly from pedantry to the most marked affectation of ignorance and simplicity. Sainclair, who had been repelled by the pretensions of the females, he met at first in the society, was yet more so by the silliness of these latter. However he distinguished one of them, who was prettier than the others, and appeared to have much unaffected wit: he conversed with her; and the young lady, who was in reality a sprightly girl, was the more amiable, as she had no desire of shining: she perceived, he was pleased; and, in order to completely secure her conquest, she hastened to declare, that she detested music, the arts, poetry, and reading. This singular declaration announced so unhappy an organization, or so ridiculous a system, that it completely chilled Sainclair; he answered dryly, became absent, and soon heard her no more.

Sainclair quitted this province without having formed any engagement: he left behind him the character of the most fanciful and most inconsistent man in the world. On arriving in Paris he heard a piece of news, which transported him with joy. The marriage of Albina had been broken off. This Albina, for whom he had had so tender a feeling, the modest, the charming Albina was free. Sainclair flies to Count de Montclair's, and requests the hand of the only person, he could love. The Count received him very kindly, and even gave him to understand, that he had had some part in the dislike Albina had shown for the match, which had been just broken off. But, pursued he, smiling, you pass for a very singular person; it is pretended, that you do not wish for a wife, who possesses any talents; and I must not deceive you, Albina possesses many—"What is it you tell me?" "It is even so, Albina draws well; she has a good voice, and sings very agreeably; she has great execution on the piano forte, is mistress of English and Italian, and is fond of literature, and the arts; you see, I conceal nothing; when so solemn an engagement is

under consideration, nothing should be hidden. "What," exclaimed Sainclair, "Albina possesses all these talents, and the world never has spoken of them!"—She has cultivated them without any pretensions; they were practised merely as relaxations from more useful occupations. "Ah, it is thus they give a woman, all the charm she can have; it is thus, that, joined to a touching modesty, they embellish youth and the graces; they spread over the whole of life the sweetest enchantment. Come, come, replied Count de Montclair, laughing; I see, you are not so whimsical, as I supposed. With these words he conducted the happy Sainclair to the feet of the amiable Albina; the final words were mutually given, and every thing irrevocably fixed the same evening. The only object now was to obtain the consent of Baron D'Elback, Sainclair's uncle and guardian, and fortunately he had just arrived at Paris with his daughter Clementina, and Versillac his son-in-law. An important affair brought to Paris this learned family, which existed but for glory. Versillac had written a poem, which was set to music by his wife; as this poem was destined for the press, and was historical, the Baron had composed a preliminary discourse full of erudition and the praises of the young poet, which was to be placed at the head of the work. The opera was received, rehearsed, and to be performed, when Sainclair asked and obtained from his uncle the consent, he solicited. Clementina did not see without emotion her cousin, whom she had loved, become the possessor of a large fortune, which assured to him the power of living at Paris, that brilliant theatre for superior talents. She consoled herself by thinking, that however the lady, Sainclair was going to espouse, was only of high birth, and that she had no celebrity; in fine she imagined it would be impossible Sainclair should not experience as much vexation as regret, when he should see the brilliant success of an opera, the words and music of which all her relations and friends considered as perfect master-pieces. The marriage

of Sainclair and Albina was celebrated three days before the first representation of the opera. On the arrival of this grand day, Sainclair, his youthful wife and the Count de Montclair went to the box, which the authors had appointed for them. Sainclair had some unpleasant forebodings, which the event but too well justified. The words were unanimously considered ridiculous, and the music detestable: there was the most pitiless booting and hissing, which could not have proceeded merely from envy; the work was not suffered to be concluded. This event had a most melancholy influence on Versillac and Clementina through the remainder of their lives. They were both victims, not of the arts, but of the most foolish pretensions, and an unbridled desire of celebrity. After so many brilliant hopes, they were obliged to return to their province with the overwhelming disgrace of a complete, indisputable fall. Vexation and chagrin entirely overturned their union: they had associated for glory only, and would not mutually share the humiliation of their reverse, each strove to throw the blame on the other. Clementina maintained, that the words had caused the ruin of her music; Versillac declared, that with a good composer his words would have been raised to the skies. The Baron, discontented at the loss of his learned preliminary discourse, loudly took his daughter's part. Thus this unhappy conjugal work became a frightful subject of contention. Things came to such a height, that they were obliged to have recourse to the most melancholy extremes; they separated, never to join again.

Albina's lot was far different: she knew how to place her glory on those things only, which depended on her own will, conduct, and feelings, public esteem, the union of her family, and the tenderness of her husband. She tasted, to the end of her life, all the happiness, which can result from a legitimate attachment, reason, peace, and the esteem of the world; and Sainclair, after having been, in his early youth, the victim of the talents, and arts, became the happiest of husbands and fathers.

To a Proprietor of the Belfast Magazine.

IN reading your Magazine for February last, my attention was particularly engaged by the title of a paper signed S.E.

The subject I conceived a most useful one, as however valuable the acquisition of knowledge may be, there are not a few who consider it dear bought, from the contamination of morals which is often produced, by an unguarded and youthful mind coming into contact with vice clad in every alluring garb, which too frequently occurs where large numbers meet for education. The general tenor of the paper I refer to is good, and it might have passed me unnoticed, had not a paragraph, alluding to a youthful Bard made me regret that some friend was not at your elbow while you nodded in your elbow chair; for sure I am that if you had been awake, such an ill-natured piece of sarcasm could never have defiled the pages of your Magazine; you may not be acquainted with the person there alluded to, but hundreds could not mistake it, and many, no doubt, are so wanting in the feelings of benevolence as to turn that paragraph into a weapon of ridicule sufficiently sharp to wound the rising merits of a young man whose future prospects depend altogether at present on public opinion. The profits from a small volume of poems, published some time ago, has assisted the Bard to enter himself at college, and I hear that he has published another selection which the readers of his former volume will see with pleasure. In the picturing of simple scenes and manners, the Bard of Erin excels many whose names are higher on the list of fame, and the moral tendency of his pieces make them acceptable, as they may exclude some of those contemptible and licentious ballads, which owing to the high price of paper are the only literary productions within the reach of the lower orders of society. But, sir, I am afraid my feelings have carried me too far; I only have room now to request, that personal vices, not personal defects, may be

future be those which your correspondents endeavour to reform, and that should any of them attempt to sully your pages by turning into ridicule any of the works of the Almighty, you will treat their productions with that contempt which they deserve. T.

Belfast April 12, 1810.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

GENTLEMEN,
I OBSERVE in your last, queries relative to alkalies, which I think (part of them at least) may be easily answered.

1st. How bleachers may know if potash and barilla ash contain fixed air. This is easily proved by dropping a little vitriol (sulphuric acid) into a solution of them in water; if it effervesces, or, in other words, makes a hissing noise, with air rising to the surface, it certainly contains fixed air; it will be necessary however to dissolve the portion of alkali to be subjected to trial in boiling water, and kept during its solution in a state of ebullition, as it would be impossible to prepare it with cold water and the surface exposed to atmospheric air, without its acquiring a considerable portion of aerial acid.

2d. How to separate fixed air from the lees of the above ashes. Lime, fresh burned, either slacked or otherwise, will, by its superior affinity to fixed air, deprive them of it; the lime will all sink to the bottom, except a small portion which will be held in solution.

3d. If the lees of said ashes are

not freed from the fixed air they contain, how far using them in that state will retard their operation in the process of bleaching linen with them. To this I cannot speak with the same certainty; but, taking it for granted, that the use of alkali in bleaching is by its dissolving the vegetable and carbonaceous matters with which the fibres of the flax are covered, and, thereby preparing them for the application of oxygen, either from the atmospheric air, or oxymuriatic acid. In this point of view, alkali containing fixed air cannot be as efficacious; it being a well known fact to farmers, that the solution of vegetable and carbonaceous matter is greatly assisted by the addition of fresh burned lime, and but very little, if it be in a mild state, or impregnated with fixed air; in this respect alkalies are analogous. Soapboilers uniformly employ lime to render their lees active, as the alkali must necessarily part with its fixed air before it can unite with the oil.

But as there is a certain portion of lime remains in solution in the lees, can that be any objection to the bleacher? I wish some of your chemical Correspondents would take the trouble of informing us what injurious effect lime used in certain portions could have in bleaching; and, what would be the best manner of applying it with a view of lessening the consumption of alkali, seeing they have one common principle viz. their promoting the solution of vegetable and carbonaceous matter.

Banks of Bann.

L.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF DISTINGUISHED PERSONS.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF MADAME ROLAND.

Continued from p. 201, No. XX.

“WHAT is life but an ocean, precarious as those,
Which surround this terraqueous ball?
What is man but a bark, often laden with woes;
What is death but the harbour of all?”

On our passage—to-day may be mild and serene,

And our loftiest canvass be shown,
While to-morrow fierce tempests may
blacken the scene,

And our masts by the board may be gone.”

RUSKIN.

MANON having completed her eighteenth year, took the small-pox, her parents having unfortunately

cherished prejudices against inoculation. The era left a deep impression on her mind, not from any apprehension on account of the disorder, for she had too much philosophy not to support such a trial with fortitude, but from her mother's affectionate solicitude. Neither her father nor mother had ever had the small pox, and yet neither of them would suffer a day to pass, without kissing the disfigured cheek, which Manon tried in vain to keep out of their way, lest they should take the infection. She recovered slowly after severe suffering and imminent danger. The physician finding in one of his visits, the *Récherche de la Vérité*, of Malbranche, lying on the bed of his patient, chid her for wasting her spirits at such a time in study. "Why, my good sir," replied she, "did all your patients thus amuse themselves, instead of getting angry with the disease, and the doctor, you would have much less to do." Some persons in the chamber were conversing on public affairs; all Paris was running, they said, to some new loan or edict, which had just appeared. "The French," observed the doctor, "take all upon trust." "Say rather," replied his patient, "upon appearances!" "True" said he, "the expression is just and profound." "Do not chide me for reading Malbranche," answered she eagerly, "you see that my time is not thrown away."

The health of Madame Philpon began insensibly to decline; she had a stroke of the palsy, which with affectionate fraud she represented to her daughter as a rheumatic attack. Serious and taciturn, she every day lost a portion of her vivacity, and secluded herself almost entirely from the world.

In 1775, M. Philpon and his family passed some weeks at Meudon. Madame Philpon appeared relieved by this little excursion, and resumed a portion of her accustomed activity. Her daughter on their return to town proposed a visit to the convent, where she wished to see her former companions. Her visit to the convent was short. "Why are you in such haste?" said her friend St. Agatha, "your mother will not expect you

to return home so soon." She hurried away from the convent, and found a little girl standing at the door, who exclaimed on her approach:—"Ah! mademoiselle, your mother is very ill." Struck with terror she uttered in reply some inarticulate sounds, and rushed towards her mother's chamber. Madame Philpon's countenance brightened on seeing her daughter, while she spoke with difficulty a few half-formed words. She made an effort to raise her arms, but one only obeyed the impulse; she endeavoured again to speak: vain attempt! palsy had annihilated half her frame; laying her hand on her daughter's face, she wiped away the tears with which it was bedewed, and tried to smile. The disorder increased with rapid progress. Mademoiselle Philpon, with excessive activity, ordered every thing; and before it could be done by others, did every thing herself. At ten in the evening the extreme unction according to the forms of the Catholic church, was administered. Mademoiselle Philpon, standing by a light, which she held mechanically at the side of the bed of her dying mother, appeared as if in a stupor, a waking or terrible dream, that suspended all her faculties. Her eyes were fixed on one spot, her heart was occupied by one sentiment. At length letting the candle fall from her hand, she fell senseless on the floor. She was carried out of the room, and on her recovery with supplicating gestures implored permission to return to her mother, but the mournful silence that prevailed too well expressed that all was over. Her father at that instant entered the room, pale and speechless with sorrow; his daughter in a sort of frenzy, broke from those who with-held her, and rushed impetuously forth. It was with difficulty she could be carried away from the corpse and taken to the house of a friend. A strong constitution, and the unwearied attentions which she received from her relations, could only have preserved her from falling a victim in this first trial of sorrow.

"Thus," says Madame Roland, "was snatched from the world one of the best and most amiable women

that ever inhabited it. Nothing brilliant rendered her remarkable, but every thing tended to endear her, the moment she was known; naturally wise and good, virtue did not seem to cost her any effort, she knew how to render it mild and easy like herself. Prudent and calm, tender without passion, her pure and tranquil spirit respired gently, as flows the docile stream, that bathes with equal complacency the valley which it embellishes, and the foot of the rock by which it is restrained. The sudden loss of such a mother made me experience the excess of grief, and the most violent transports." It is charming to possess unaffected sensibility, but unfortunate to have too much.

The return to her father's house, was a new trial for the affectionate sensibility of mademoiselle Philpon. They had taken the ill-judged precaution of removing her mother's portrait, as if the place where it had hung would not more painfully recall her loss. Her studies became every day a source of consolation. "Left more than ever by myself," says she, "and often in a melancholy disposition, I felt the necessity of writing; I wished to render to myself an account of my own ideas, and to enlighten them by the intervention of my pen: when not employed in this way, I revised still more than I meditated: I pursued a chain of reasoning, and by these means bridled my imagination." Her intention was by this means to fix her opinions, and to possess a register of her sentiments and the progress of her mind.

"My happiness," says she, "was my chief concern, and I perceived that the public never intermeddled with the happiness of any one without marring it; I therefore determined not to publish any of my writings. If the public are forced to acknowledge that a woman has talents, they sift her character, her morals, her conduct, and balance the reputation of her genius by the publicity which they give to her errors.* Ah! my

God! what an injury did those people do to me, who took it upon them to withdraw the veil under which I loved to remain concealed. During twelve years of my life, I have laboured along with my husband in the same manner that I ate with him, because the one was as natural to me as the other. During his administration, if it were necessary to express great or striking truths, I employed the whole bent of my mind; that its efforts should be preferable to those of a secretary was but natural. I loved my country;* I was an enthusiast in the cause of liberty; I was unacquainted with any interests or any passions that could enter into competition with these; and my language, which was that of the heart, and of truth, ought to have been pure and pathetic."

Monsieur Philpon, for some time after the death of his wife, endeavoured to remain more at home with his daughter; but of this constraint he soon became weary. "If I wished to converse with him," said she, "we had but few ideas in common. I often sat down to picquet with him; it however contributed very little to his diversion to play with his daughter; besides he was not ignorant that I detested cards—that soul-less occupation—and however desirous I might be to persuade him that I took pleasure in them, and however I used to relish this manner of amusing him, he entertained no doubt, but that it was all mere complaisance on my part."

Many circumstances highly interesting and important to the formation of the mind of this truly admirable woman, this martyr to humanity and virtue, whose untimely fate can never be sufficiently lamented, are here omitted lest this biographical sketch should be extended to an unreasonable length.

In 1775, mademoiselle Philpon became acquainted with Monsieur Roland. "I found," says she, "he had

substitute fiction for facts; the more absurd, the more credible, and the more eagerly received.

* Fickle people, and frivolous as light! unworthy the sacrifices that have been made for them!

* Madame Roland might have added; and if they cannot find any real blemishes in her conduct, they are ingenious to

that kind of formality contracted by study, but his manners were easy and simple, with the politeness of a man of birth. Born in the midst of opulence, he was descended from an ancient family, whose fortunes had been melted away by prodigality. The youngest of five brothers, who had been made to enter the church, he had left his paternal mansion at the age of nineteen, to avoid taking orders, or entering into commerce, to both of which he was equally averse. He had formed a project of going to the Indies, which the state of his health had prevented. A relation, an inspector of manufactures at Rouen, proposed to him to engage in that part of the administration.

The young man complied, distinguished himself by his activity and at length became advantageously settled. Travelling and study divided his time. On his return from a journey to Italy, mademoiselle Philpon found in him a valuable friend; and considering him as the being to whom she was about to unite her destiny, became much attached to him.

The first year of their marriage was spent at Paris, whither business, with respect to the manufactures called M. Roland. After leaving Paris they spent four years at Amiens, "where," says Madame Roland, "we never quit our study but to walk in the neighbourhood of the town: I formed an herbal of the plants of Picardy, and spent my time mostly in literary occupations."

In 1784, M. and Madame Roland removed to the generality of Lyons, and settled to Villefranche in the paternal mansion of the former. "It was there," says Madame Roland, "my simple taste became conversant in all the details of rural economy: it was there that I employed for the relief of my neighbours some acquired knowledge: I became the physician of the village, so much the more beloved as giving succour instead of demanding retributions, while the pleasure of proving useful rendered those cares agreeable."

In 1789, Madame Roland snatched her husband from the grave, during a dangerous malady, from which her cares only could have saved him.—

She passed twelve days without sleep, and six months in all the anxiety of perilous convalescence. "Yet," says she, "I was not even indisposed, so much does the heart confer strength, and double our activity."

In 1784, they made the tour of England, and in 1787 that of Switzerland, an interesting account of which appeared in the posthumous works of Madame Roland. During these journeys she acquired some valuable friends.

The revolution ensued, that extraordinary epoch in human affairs: the friends of liberty and humanity, in the hope of beholding the regeneration of their species, and meliorating the lot of the lower and more unfortunate classes of mankind, rejoiced and triumphed. Respectable but mistaken transports! M. and Madame Roland gave, by their opinions, offence at Lyons to many individuals, who habituated to commercial calculations, could not conceive how any one could be induced through mere philosophy, to provoke and applaud changes, which could only prove useful to others.—M. Roland, elected a member of the municipality on its first formation, distinguished himself by his inflexible justice. Being deputed to the constituent assembly in behalf of the interest of Lyons, he repaired to Paris, where they passed nearly a year. It was at this period that they connected themselves with those *respectable* but unfortunate men, destined with themselves, to become the martyrs and the victims of the sacred cause of humanity and freedom.

Monsieur Philpon died during the severe winter of 1787, at sixty-three years of age, in consequence of the catarrh, with which he had been long affected.

Public affairs now absorbed their whole attention, while they resigned themselves to the passion of serving their country, and thus benefiting the human race. M. Roland had executed the office of inspector of commerce and manufactories in the *generality* of Lyons, with knowledge, activity and probity. A correspondence had also taken place about this time between him and Brissot,

whom congenial principles had mutually attracted. This correspondence, was, by the revolution, still farther encouraged. Notwithstanding his situation in life, his family, and his connections, which might be supposed to attach him to the aristocracy, Roland was, by his turn of mind and character, rendered interesting to the popular party. In 1791, he was elected deputy extraordinary to the constituent assembly to solicit assistance for the manufactures; he accordingly went to Paris with his family. Madame Roland, who had been five years absent from the place of her birth, and who had watched with a lively interest the progress of the revolution and the labours of the assembly, whose characters and talents she had anxiously studied, seized this opportunity to attend their sittings. "There," says she, "I remarked with vexation that kind of superiority on the side of the court party, which dignified habits, purity of language, and polished manners, cannot fail to give in large assemblies. But strength of reason, the courage of integrity, the lights of philosophy, the fruits of study, and the fluency of the bar, could not fail to secure the triumphs of the patriots, if they were all honest, and could but remain united."

Brissot introduced M. and Madame Roland to several of the members of the assembly, whom similitude of principles, or zeal for the public good drew together. It was then agreed that they should meet four evenings in the week at M. Roland's. By this arrangement Madame Roland became acquainted with the progress of affairs, in which, from her taste for political speculation, and for the study of mankind, she was deeply interested. "I knew," says she, "the part which became my sex, and never stepped out of it. I took no share in the debates which passed in my presence. Sitting at a table without the circle, I employed myself with my needle, or in writing letters; yet, if I dispatched ten epistles, which was sometimes the case, I lost not a syllable of what was passing, and more than once bit my lips to restrain my impatience to

speak. What struck me most, and distressed me exceedingly, was that sort of light and frivolous chit-chat, in which men of sense waste two or three hours without coming to any conclusion. Taking things in detail, you would have heard excellent principles maintained, and some good plans proposed; but on summing up the whole, there appeared to be no path marked out, no fixed result or determinate point, towards which the views of each individual should be directed. Sometimes for very vexation, I could have boxed the ears of these philosophers, whom I daily learned to esteem more for the honesty of their hearts, and the purity of their intentions. Excellent reasoners all, and all philosophers, and learned theoretical politicians; but, totally ignorant of the art of managing mankind, and consequently of swaying an assembly; their wit and learning were too generally lavished to no end." Robespierre was sometimes of these parties; persuaded, at that time, of his love for liberty, the usual penetration of Madame Roland was suspended in his favour, while she was inclined to attribute his faults to an excess of patriotism.

"He had that kind of reserve," says Madame Roland, "which I mistook for modesty. Never did the smile of confidence rest on the lips of Robespierre; while they were almost always contracted by the malignant grin of envy, striving to assume the semblance of disdain. His talents as an orator were below mediocrity; his vulgar voice, ill-chosen expressions, and faulty pronunciation rendered his discourse extremely tiresome. But he maintained principles with warmth and perseverance; and there was some courage in doing so, at a time, when the defenders of the popular cause were greatly diminished in numbers."

The mission of Roland having detained him seven months at Paris, he quitted it in the middle of September, after obtaining for Lyons every thing that it could desire. One of the last acts of the constituent assembly was the suppression of inspectors. M. and Madame Ro-

land considered whether it would be better to remain in the country, or pass the winter in Paris, where Roland might continue his literary labours, in the focus of science, amidst artists and men of letters. In the month of December they accordingly returned to Paris. About the middle of March, they were informed by one of their friends, that the court, full of perplexity and alarm, was desirous of doing some popular act, and had even an idea of appointing patriot ministers. Several persons, had turned their thoughts towards M. Roland, whose literary reputation, administrative knowledge, justice, and vigour of mind, afforded a prospect of stability. On the 23d Brissot and Dumouriez came, on the breaking up of the council, to inform Roland that he was appointed minister for the home department, and to salute him as their colleague. On their leaving the house; "there goes a man," said Madame Roland, speaking of Dumouriez, whom she had then seen for the first time,— "there goes a man of a subtle mind, and a deceitful look; against whom it will perhaps behove you to be more upon your guard than against any other man whatever." It appeared to her impossible that Roland and Dumouriez could act long in concert. "On one side," says she, "I beheld integrity and frankness personified, with rigid justice, devoid of all courtly arts, and all the dexterous manœuvres of a man of the world: on the other, I fancied I could recognise a libertine of great parts, a determined adventurer, inclined to make a jest of every thing except his own interest and fame."

Roland by his indefatigable industry, readiness in business, and methodical habits, was soon enabled to arrange in his head the various branches of his department. For the first three weeks he was enchanted with the apparently excellent disposition of the king, to whose professions he gave entire credit. "Good God," said his wife to him, "when I see you and Claviere* set out for the council, with all that delightful

confidence, it always seems to me that you are on the point of committing some egregious folly. I never could bring myself to believe in the constitutional vocation of a king, born and brought up in despotism, and accustomed to arbitrary sway. Had Lewis been sincerely the friend of a constitution that would have restrained his power, he must have been a man above the common race of mortals; and had he been such a man, he would never have suffered those events to occur that produced the revolution." The first time Roland appeared at court, the simplicity of his apparel excited the surprise and indignation of the court satellites, who deriving from *etiquette* their sole importance, believed the state depended on its preservation. "Oh dear, sir," said the master of the ceremonies, with a countenance of alarm, whispering Dumouriez, and glancing at Roland, "he has no buckles in his shoes." "Oh lord," answered Dumouriez with comic gravity, "we are all ruined and undone."

"Roland *without me*," says Madame Roland, "would not have been a worse minister; his activity, his knowledge, his probity, were all his own: but *with me* he attracted more attention; because I infused into his writings that mixture of spirit and of softness, of authoritative reason and of seducing sentiment, which are perhaps only to be found in a woman endowed with a clear head and a feeling heart. I composed with delight such pieces as I deemed likely to be useful; and felt in so doing greater pleasure than had I been known as the author. I am avaricious of happiness, and with me it consists in the good I do."

Reparations were made, by the public commotions and alarms for the dreadful tragedy of September 1792; on the first symptoms of which, Roland took every step, in his office of minister, to avert the coming storm, which the most vigilant humanity could devise. The massacre continued four whole days. "I know of nothing," says Madame Roland, "in the annals of the most barbarous nations comparable to these atrocious

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*One of his colleagues in office.

acts. The health of Roland was impaired by these proceedings. He was still ignorant of a warrant having been issued against him; a secret which his wife had been careful to keep from his knowledge. Somebody, however, in the following week, informed him of the circumstance. Madame Roland prepared to go with her daughter into the country, whither she was desirous of retiring; should the enemies of her husband proceed to the last extremities, it would be easier she thought, for him to escape alone, than when embarrassed with his family. Her passports had been delayed by the section, and scarcely were they delivered to her when she was seized with an alarming illness—When she recovered sufficient strength she proposed to go out in order to show herself to the municipality; when by the sound of the alarm bell, her purpose was suspended. At half past five the same evening six armed men appeared at M. Roland's, when one of them read an order of the *Revolutionary Committee*, by virtue of which they were come to apprehend him. "I know of no laws," replied Roland, "which constitute the authority you mention, nor shall I obey the orders which it issues. If you employ force, I can only oppose to it such resistance as I am capable of making; but I shall protest against it to the last moment of my life." "I have no order," said the man, "to use violence; I shall return therefore, and communicate your answer to the council general of the commune." It immediately occurred to Madame Roland, that it might not be amiss to denounce, in the most public manner, these proceedings to the convention. She accordingly went there, but could not gain admittance, "I was," says she, "in that temper of mind which imparts eloquence; warm with indignation, superior to fear, my bosom glowing for my country, the ruin of which I foresaw; every thing dear to me was at stake; feeling strongly, expressing those feelings fluently, and too proud not to utter them with dignity.

Having, at length, after many de-

lays and difficulties reached her own house, when a man who was close behind her, and who had slipped in unperceived by the porter, begged her to conduct him to citizen Roland. "I came," said the man, "to let him know, that we are absolutely determined on confining him this very evening." "They must be sagacious if they accomplish their purpose." "I am happy to hear it, for it is an honest citizen to whom you are speaking."

"I may be asked," says she, "why, under such circumstances, I returned to the house. Nor is the question irrelevant. I have a natural aversion to every thing inconsistent with the grand, bold, and ingenious proceedings of innocence: an effort to escape from the hand of injustice would be to me more painful than any thing it could inflict. During the last three months of Roland's administration, our friends often urged us to quit the hotel, but it was always contrary to my inclinations: it was incumbent on the minister to be at his post. It was possible to reach his life when abroad, with equal advantage to the assassins, less benefit to the public, and less glory to the victim. Such reasoning will be deemed absurd by those who prefer life to all other things."

Madame Roland acted upon these principles; she refused to leave the hotel on the month of January, determined to share the fate of her husband. That fury, she also believed, glutted with her destruction, would be mitigated against Roland; who, if saved from this crisis, might yet be reserved to benefit France. Her imprisonment and trial might therefore be productive of advantage to her husband, and to her country; or, if destined to perish, it would be under circumstances in which life itself would have become a burthen. Thus magnanimously reasoned this admirable woman!

Scarcely had she seated herself at her desk to write a note, when she was disturbed by a loud knocking at the door. It was a numerous deputation of the commune to search for Roland; they withdrew much dis-

satisfied at not finding him. Overcome with fatigue Madame Roland retired to rest. She slept for about an hour, when she was awakened by a servant, and informed that some gentlemen of the section requested her to step into the adjoining room. "I understand what it means," replied she, calmly, "I will not make them wait." When she went into the next apartment; "We come, *citoyenne*," said the men, "to take you into custody, and to put seals upon your property. Here is a warrant of the revolutionary committee to commit you to the Abbaye." The warrant did not specify any motive for her arrest.

At seven o'clock in the morning she left her daughter and domestics, after exhorting them to calmness and patience. "You have people here who love you," said one of the commissioners observing the tears of her family. "I never had any about me who did not," replied she, while walking down stairs: from the bottom of which to the coach, drawn up on the opposite side of the street, stood two ranks of armed citizens. She proceeded gravely, with measured steps, while her eyes were fixed on these deluded men. The armed force followed the coach in two files, while the miserable populace, attracted by the sight, stopped to gaze as it passed. "*Away with her to the guillotine!*" exclaimed several persons. "Shall we draw up the blinds?" said one of the commissioners, civilly. "No, gentlemen; innocence, however oppressed, never puts on the guise of criminality: I fear not the eye of any one; nor will I conceal myself from any person's view." "You have more strength of mind than men; you wait patiently for justice." "Justice! were

justice done, I should not be now in your hands. But should an iniquitous procedure send me to the scaffold, I shall walk to it with the same tranquillity and firmness as I now pass to prison. My heart bleeds for my country, while I regret my mistake in supposing it qualified for freedom and happiness: but life I appreciate at its due value. I never feared any thing but guilt;—injustice and death I despise."

Having arrived at the Abbaye, that scene of massacre, her guides made her ascend a narrow stair-case—"Where is my room," said she to the wife of the keeper, a woman with an agreeable countenance—The commissioners gave very strict orders; the keeper, an active, obliging, humane man, did not observe the orders which were given him, but treated Madame Roland with the greatest kindness and humanity. "Well then," said she, seating herself, and falling into a train of reflections, "I am in prison." The moments that followed, she declared, she would not have exchanged for those which might be esteemed the happiest of her life. She was sensible of the value of integrity and fortitude, united with an approving conscience. "I recalled the past to my mind," says she, "I calculated the event of the future. I devoted myself, if I may say, voluntarily to my destiny, whatever it might be: I defied its rigour, and fixed myself firmly in that state of mind, in which, without giving ourselves concern for what is to come, we seek only employment for the present." But this tranquillity in regard to her own fate extended not to that of her country and her friends.

To be Continued.

FOREIGN LITERATURE.

Report of the Proceedings of the Class of History and Ancient Literature, of the French Institute, delivered at the public meeting on the 7th of July, 1809, by M. Ginguené.

M. GOSSELIN has inquired into the geographical knowledge the ancients had of the coasts of India.

He conceives, that Herodotus was misled by the Persians, who were desirous of persuading him, that they had penetrated much further into India than they had done in reality under Darius, the son of Hytaspes.—Every thing in the description of India, given by that historian, relates

only to districts, at no great distance from the river Hindus: Major Rennel therefore is mistaken, when he places on the banks of the Ganges, the Padæi, Anthropophagi, neighbours according to Herodotus of the Ichthyophagi, who dwelt on the banks of the Indus, and of the Nomades, who lived near them. The dominions of Darius he thinks, extended no further south than the vale, through which this river flows; and no further north than the Hypanis, which likewise bounded the conquests of Alexander.

M. Gosselin next defends Megasthenes and Deimachus against the severe censure passed on them by Strabo. These writers whose works have not reached us, were sent in succession on embassies beyond the Hypanis, by Seleucus Nicator. Both of them describe India under the general form of a vast triangle, the northern side of which extended from the frontiers of Bactriana to the mouths of the Ganges, and the other sides reached from these two points to the promontory, now called Cape Comorin. As the measures assigned by these ambassadors were given soon after the death of Alexander, they no doubt used the stadium, by which his marches were reckoned. This is now generally agreed to be the stadium of Aristotle, which he says makes a four hundred thousandth part of the circumference of the earth. Now if we calculate by this standard, the number of stadia assigned by these authors to the two sides of the triangle terminating at Cape Comorin, and set them off by the compasses, or in a straight line, on Major Rennel's large map, we shall find the distances perfectly agree. It is true, if we trust to Eratosthenes, as quoted by Strabo and Arrian, we shall find the measure of the north side, as given by Megasthenes, too short by near a third. But M. Gosselin supposes that there was an error of the transcriber, in the copy of Megasthenes, used by Eratosthenes, sixteen thousand stadia being put instead of twenty-six thousand; which would agree as nearly as can be expected with the truth, and is confirmed by the portion of the

itineraries of Alexander and Seleucus, preserved by Pliny.

To these general data, Megasthenes added astronomical observations, which prove, that the latitudes between which India was included were, not unknown to him. These observations being transmitted to Alexandria, were afterwards mistaken and altered by the geographers of that school, in order to make them agree with their erroneous estimation of the measure employed by Megasthenes, and the systematic notions they had framed of the latitudes of India. M. Gosselin traces their errors, points out their cause, and then corrects them.

About thirty years after, Patrocles was sent into India by Antiochus Soter, and brought back a new description of that country. He also considered it as of a triangular figure, but apparently assigns very different measures to its sides. He gives only about two thirds of the number of stadia to each side, a circumstance of itself sufficient to lead to the conjecture, that his stadium was not the same: and if we suppose that he used the stadium, which Posidonius afterwards attempted to revive and appropriate to himself, and of which two hundred and forty thousand were equal to the circumference of the globe, his measures will differ little from those of Megasthenes.

It was for want of attending to this difference in the standards employed, that subsequent geographers rejected the authority sometimes of one, and sometimes of the other; and that Eratosthenes, endeavouring to rectify the apparent inaccuracies and disagreements of the various writers who had preceded him, deviated still farther from the truth, and gave India the form of a rhomboid. His map however, which is traced by Mr. Gosselin, was almost generally adopted, and will serve to elucidate many obscure passages in subsequent authors.

The sovereigns of Alexandria, desirous of making themselves masters of the trade to India, did every thing in their power to promote the progress of navigation. Vessels sailing from the Arabian Gulf, our Red Sea,

coasted along the shore as far as Malabar; and some even to the mouth of the Ganges. But in the first century of our present era navigators had observed, that regular winds prevailed periodically in those seas. Hippalus, trusting to these winds first ventured to leave the coast of Arabia behind him, launched out into the open sea, and as he expected, was wafted to the shores of India. Hence his grateful contemporaries gave the name of Hippalus to the wind that conveyed him thither, the leuconotus of the Greeks and Romans, and our south west monsoon. The north east monsoon brought him back to the entrance of the Arabian Gulf, and thus we may trace his course without fear of being mistaken.

Of all the itineraries of India, published in the reign of Ptolemy Philadelphus, we have only the *Periplus* of the Erythrean Sea. This, according to M. Gosselin, is very accurate, till it approaches the Ganges; and it is altogether erroneous beyond that river, which the Alexandrian navigators had scarcely ever passed in those days. It was not till near the end of the first century, that Marinus Tyrius was enabled to collect fresh information, and construct new maps, in which he in some degree supplied the deficiency of the *Periplus* with respect to these coasts of India. As his works are lost, all our knowledge of them is derived from Ptolemy, who sometimes adopts, and sometimes criticises his opinions. M. Gosselin describes and examines the coasts of India, as they are represented by both these geographers; first from the Hindus to the promontory of Cory, opposite Taprobana; and then from this promontory to the regions beyond the Ganges, the Golden Chersonese, and lastly to Catigara.—The figure of India in the maps of these geographers is strangely irregular; but the distances between the harbours, rivers, and capes, are given by Marinus Tyrius, with a degree of accuracy hitherto not suspected. This, M. Gosselin proves by restoring his map, which Ptolemy had disfigured by his pretended corrections, and comparing the distances collected by

Marinus, with those determined by the moderns. Beyond Cape Cory however it appears that the standard of measurement in the ancient map changes; and both Marinus Tyrius and Ptolemy, misled by vague information, have laid down the coasts of Coromandel twice in succession, prolonging them to the Ganges, and omitting the coasts of the Circars, Orixá, and part of Bengal.

The text of Ptolemy has not reached us unaltered. The later Greeks added to it the discoveries made down to their time beyond Catigara, where Ptolemy stopped; and through a singular blunder, they placed on this side that point, the new countries that lay beyond it. M. Gosselin points out and corrects all these errors, and concludes with an examination of the coast of Taprobana, anciently Simundus, or rather Palæimundus, and now Ceylon. In this part he solves several difficulties in what has been written on this island by Ptolemy, Strabo, Pliny, and others; and reduces within due bounds the exaggerations and fabulous reports given by the ambassadors, which the king of Taprobana sent to the emperor Claudius, part of which he ascribes to the misinterpretation of the Romans.

M. Barbié du Bocage communicated to the class, the commencement of his inquiries into the topography of the plain of Argos. Having drawn up by order of the French government, a large map of the Morea, which is now engraving at the war office in Paris, he was led to compare the present state of the country with the ancient; and has particularly examined the most celebrated part of it, Argos and its surrounding plain, which now present an aspect very different from what they formerly bore.

The learned are sometimes blamed for discussing subjects, on which more than enough has already been written: but it is often this very superfluity which induces them to write. Thus, though long articles, tracts, nay volumes, have been written on the masks of the ancients, *M. Mongez* has thought fit to resume the subject, by way of setting it at rest. We know that the mask worn by the

ancient actors had a very large mouth ; but what was the reason of this?—Some have supposed, that metallic plates were included in it, to increase the sound of the voice ; others that it had the form of a shell, in order to produce the effect of the modern speaking trumpet. Barthélemy, in his *Anacharsis*, is decidedly for the former opinion ; and quotes for his authorities Pliny, Solinus, Aulus Gellius, and Cassiodorus ; to say nothing of Abbe Dubos, who had only mistaken the ancients before him. Pliny says, that the stone *calcephonus*, when struck, sounded like brass ; and that tragic actors should never omit wearing it. Solinus, who almost always copies Pliny, adds that this stone preserves the clearness of the voice. Both these passages however merely indicate, that the *calcephonus* was a proper amulet for tragedians, as the jasper was for warriors, and as a hundred others were supposed for various purposes, both by the ancients and moderns, in the ages of credulity. Aulus Gellius says, that the head and face of the actor being entirely covered by the mask, which has but one opening through which the voice can issue, the sound is rendered stronger and clearer by it. But here is no mention of the peculiar form of the mouth, or of plates of metal fixed in it. Cassiodorus says nothing of the mouth of the mask ; he merely ascribes the extent and strength of the voice in tragic declamation, to the reverberations of concavities ; and it does not even appear, whether he speaks of the hollow of the mask, or of the circular form of the theatre. Abbe Dubos had fancied, from what Pliny and Solinus say of the *calcephonus*, that the ancients first lined the mouth of the mask with brass, and then placed in it very thin plates of a kind of marble ! This whimsical idea he attempts to support by a passage of Quintilian, who speaks of the ridiculousness of laughter in a mask ; but the Roman author is not speaking, as Dubos supposes, of a disagreeable sound produced by laughter issuing through an artificial mouth-piece ; he merely alludes to the incongruity of the sound of laughter with the features exhibited by a tragic mask.

Both these hypotheses appear to have arisen from the imaginary impossibility of an unassisted voice being heard through the extent of the ancient theatres : but experiments lately made at those of Saguntum in Spain, Taurominium in Sicily, and Verona in Italy, leave no doubt on this head. We may safely conclude therefore, that the reason why the ancients made the mouth both of the tragic and comic masks so large, as to admit of the teeth and even the lips being seen through them, was merely that the voice might receive no obstruction.

Another subject discussed by M. Mongez is that of the vessels called *lachrymatory*. These, which are small phials of glass or earthen ware with long slender necks, and commonly found in Sarcophagi, in ancient urns, where they are mixed with ashes and fragments of bones, are supposed to have held the tears of the mourners. As they are not very well adapted for catching these, and little spoons are sometimes found with them, or even in them, some have embellished the fiction by representing these spoons as used to collect the tears, and transfer them to the phials. The ancients however are totally silent respecting any such practice. Petronius indeed says, of the servant of the matron of Ephesus, *lachrymas commodabat lugenti*, "she lent the mourner tears ;" but none of the commentators understand this literally. The only support it has beside conjecture is a bas relief, said to have been found at Padua, on which a funeral procession is represented, and one of the females attending, is holding a vessel of this kind to her eye, as if to catch the tears. This sculpture however is undoubtedly a forgery, and apparently of the fifteenth century, in which M. Mongez had before supposed this notion was first broached. Accordingly he still continues of opinion, with Schoepflin and Faciandi, that these little vessels were used, not for tears, but for liquid balsams, perfumes, or odoriferous oils, which the relations of the deceased poured on the body when placed on the funeral pile, and on the ashes before they were enclosed in the urns. In

confirmation of this, M. Mongez gives two figures from acknowledged antiques, in which small vessels of precisely the same shape are evidently designed to hold perfumes, and diffuse their odour.

Another subject, discussed by the same gentleman, is the signification of the words διπλος, *duplex*, and their derivatives, with the dress of the cynic philosophers. Translators have generally rendered the words ἱμαθιον διπλον by *pallium duplex*, or double cloak, without considering whether it meant a cloak as big again as usual, a cloak of double the common thickness, a cloak doubled by folding, a cloak wrapped twice round the body, or a cloak with a lining. All of these, except the last, M. Mongez finds on ancient monuments, or in ancient authors; but which of them was the double cloak of the cynics? Winkelmann, speaking of the statue of one of these philosophers at the villa Albani, concludes, that it was neither, but a cloak with a lining, because the cloak of that statue is not doubled by folding. M. Mongez however shows, that the learned German antiquary was mistaken; and that the cynic cloak differed from that of the other Grecians merely in being thus doubled.

Mr Lewis Petit-Radel pursues his enquiries of a different kind in an investigation of the original historical monuments of Celtiberia and particularly those of Tarragona. He conceived, that the military remains of a city so celebrated in history, must, from their native and gigantic proportions, be connected with all the facts, that confirm the remote period of the civilization of Europe, and particularly with the primitive history of Celtiberia; and that there must have been a connection between the ancient inhabitants of this coast and the Pelasgo-Tyrrhenian colonies on the coast opposite. Accordingly, after examining the military remains of Tarragona, he has compared the geographical records of the country between the Ebro and Pyrenees, and of ancient Bætica, with those of the coast of Italy from Piombino to Luzzuolo. Having examined the

ancient coins of both countries, the perfect resemblance, which the Celtiberian and Turdetanian characters bear to the old Greek, confirms him in his opinion, that the historical, if not the primitive civilization of Celtiberia, originated from the Tyrrhenian Pelasgi settled on the coasts of Etruria and Latium. M. de Laborde first observed, in his Picturesque tour through Spain, that the Roman walls of Tarragona, built by the Scipios, have for their base the gigantic ruins of the original enclosure; and that the stones of the Roman structure are marked with the same Celtiberian characters, as are found on the most ancient coins and monuments of that region. It appears too, from a plan of the walls of Tarragona, communicated to M. Petit-Radel, in 1805, by a learned Spaniard, Mr. Antony de Marty, that the modern city is included within the circumference of the Roman, being to it in the proportion of eight thousand Castilian feet to fourteen thousand; and that the ancient city was even much larger than the Roman. The primitive ramparts are composed of enormous blocks of stone; but notwithstanding their bulk and irregularity, M. Petit-Radel does not find in them the characteristics, by which he distinguishes the Cyclopean structures; though every thing convinces him of their high antiquity. He finds in them too the marks of Greek construction, not Carthaginian, as he at first thought. At Barcelona however he perceives the characteristics of Carthaginian building; and the evident difference between the military remains of these two cities he considers as a proof, that the Greeks and Carthaginians had both founded cities in Bætica at different times.

To ascertain the period, unquestionably very remote of the Greek or Pelasgic foundation of Tarragona he has recourse, with the best critics, to the topographical synonymes of regions, mountains, rivers, people, and cities. Of these he quotes so many striking ones, in comparing the coasts of Etruria and ancient Latium with the Celtiberia of the ancients, we are astonished with him, that the ancients themselves do not

appear to have been struck with the similitude. The time he fixes on for the foundation of the city is that when the Pelasgi; who about the year 1539, B.C. had left Elis, and taken refuge on the coast of Italy afterward called the Tyrrhenian, where they lived in great prosperity for near two centuries, and built flourishing cities; were driven thence by famine and contagious diseases, as we are informed by Dionysius of Halicarnassus, whom Heret endeavours in vain to refute, and settled among the barbarians. Sailing from the coast of Hetruria, they landed on that of Celtiberia, and there fixed themselves nearly in the same order as before. Hence we find in both countries the same names of people, rivers, and towns; a remarkable circumstance, which can have no other cause.

A letter of M. Favel, from Athens, dated the 14th of June 1808. affords M. Petit-Radel farther confirmation of his general theory of ancient structures. It contains an account of the ruins of two cities lately discovered in Asia Minor, by M. Gropius, a Westphalian artist. They are at the foot of mount Sipylus, on the confines of Ionia, Æolia, and Lydia. The walls of one are formed of rough stones, but square, and in regular courses; those of the other are constructed with irregular polygons. This is built on a hill near the sea; and on a con-

tinuation of the same hill are above a hundred tombs, some of which are surrounded by a wall formed of irregular polygonal stones, like the walls of Mycenæ, and of Larissa in Thessaly; while others are enclosed within a wall of regularly squared stones, like the tombs within the walls of Mycenæ, and like the walls of cities of Ionian foundation, and all the structures in general that have a certain date posterior to that of the arrival of the Egyptian colony under Danaus. Here we have the same two ages for the foundation of these cities as appear in all the similar ruins discovered in Greece and Italy. Strabo peoples the coast, where M. Gropius has made these discoveries, with Pelasgians from Thessaly. The walls of Larissa, Lamia, and Pharsalia, in Thessaly, are constructed of irregular polygons, like those of the maritime city discovered by M. Gropius. The bed of the Cayster too is contracted by two quays of similar structure: and this was a common practice, according to Strabo, of the Larisseans of Thessaly, from which country he derives the Larisseans of this part of the coast of Asia. Hence M. Petit-Radel concludes, that these remains are partly those of Pelasgian colonists from Thessaly, partly those of Æolian colonists; and that the different kinds of tombs answer to the two periods of their establishment.

DETACHED ANECDOTES.

OFFENDERS ESCAPE, BECAUSE THE LAWS ARE TOO SEVERE.

FROM the tables in Howard's State of Prisons, we learn that at the different assizes within the Oxford circuit, for seven years, from 1764, 690 persons were tried, and 615 acquitted; besides 293 discharged by proclamation.

Within the home circuit from 1764 to 1770, inclusive, 159 were burnt in the hand, 96 whipped, and 356 acquitted. In the Norfolk circuit from 1750 to 1772, 434 condemned to death, and

only 117 executed. In the same space of time, for the midland circuit, 518 condemned to death, and 116 executed. And at the Old Bailey, London, from 1749 to 1771, inclusive, 1121 sentenced to die, and 678 executed.

The number of those acquitted must be referred to many escapes through the lenity of judges, juries and prosecutors, struggling against law, to which their feelings were in opposition, rather than to the innocence of the accused, as it is not to

be presumed magistrates would commit to prison without a probability of guilt. After seeing so many let loose after every assizes, formed to vice in the rank hot-bed of a jail, we cannot wonder at the increase of crimes.—The old system of punishing has eminently failed. It is time to try the effects of substituting certainty, to severity of punishment. K.

INEFFICACY OF THE PUNISHMENT OF DEATH.

Dr. Rush relates that "The duke of Tuscany, soon after the publication of the Marquis of Beccaria's excellent treatise on this subject, abolished death as a punishment for murder.

A gentleman who resided five years at Pisa, informed him that only five murders had been perpetrated in his dominions in twenty years. The same gentleman added, that after his residence in Tuscany he spent three months in Rome, where death is still the punishment for murder. During this short period, there were sixty murders committed in the precincts of that city. It is remarkable (continues the doctor) that the manners, principles and religion of the inhabitants of Tuscany and Rome, are exactly the same: the abolition of death alone for murder produced this difference in the moral characters of the two nations."

In the one the punishment was strictly enforced, but death was not the penalty. In the other, the punishment was in its letter severe, but it was evaded, and the sanctuaries screened those, whom the laws condemned.

The hopes of escape counterbalanced the dread of a more severe sentence. K.

EXTERIOR CEREMONIAL OBSERVANCES OFTEN CLOAK KNAVERY.

In an account of a journey from Bengal to England through the northern part of India, the author, George Forster, relates that on taking up his lodging at Akorah, in a mosque, the usual place of lodging in that country, at the time of evening prayer, he was desired by one of the Mollahs or priests, to prepare himself for the ceremony; but being fatigued he urged in excuse the debilitated state of his body; the Mollah looking at him with contempt told him it was the more necessary to pray to obtain better health. At midnight a person endeavouring to take a turban from the bed clothes of the traveller, and being caught by the arm, said in a faltering voice, that he was the Mollah of the mosque, and from his voice appeared to be the one, who had reprehended the neglect of prayer. "What think you my friend of these Mahomedans?" exclaims the writer, "who if they wash and pray at five stated times, abstain from wine and the flesh of hogs, and utter a string of Arabic ejaculations, which they do not understand, believe that they have procured the Divine licence to violate the laws of justice." Surely this trait is not peculiar to the disciples of Mahomed.—Daily observation shows that among Christians, a punctilious observance of forms, is often a cover for knavery or a substitute for honesty. K.

ORIGINAL POETRY.

MARGARITA.

* (A VERSION OF AN ANCIENT IRISH POEM)
Sicce near Glinway.

THE breeze of night slept on the moon-

struck waves,

And rosy morn its rays in ocean laves;

My wandering steps inviting to the

shores,

Where sooths my care the dashing billows

rear.

* Vid. Mrs. O'Connell's Poetical Sketches, Vol. 2, p. 43, for the prose translation.

BELFAST MAG. NO. XXI.

Stately, as swans float o'er the surges
high,
A distant ship salutes my raptured
eye;
The freshening breezes press the swelling
sails,
And urge her to the shore in favouring
gales;
The beach she reaches, and her active
crew
Quickly her precious lading give to
view.

N B

The richest sifter of Greece loose floating
rise,
Beaming the splendour of a thousand
dyes;
While precious stones that thirsty drink
the light,
Gleam on the dazzled eye with radiance
bright.

But soon my wandering senses fixed
remain,

On one fair object issuing to the plain;
Behind her flows of maids a snowy line,
In movements gentle, and in air divine;
But she that lovely train outshines as
far,

As radiant Hesper dims each lesser star;
While her untainted mind its brightness
beams,

Through her fine form, and admiration
claims;

Diffusing smiles, which thoughts to soft-
ness move,
And tune each passing gale to sighs of
love.

Down her fair breast, and waist decreas-
ing small,

Her wavy locks in parting radiance fall,
While happy rings of gold rejoice to
deck,

In fond embrace, her snow surpassing
neck.

The blushes of the rose dissolve in bliss,
While her enchanting cheek they lightly
kiss:

Of her scarce parting lips the charms to
view,

The dawn delays his steep course to pur-
sue.

Now various thoughts of contemplation
rise,

What can bring down this angel from the
skies?

For not inferior to the angel choir
To *Margarita rank my thoughts as-
pire.

O brightest star of beauty's spreading
shy!

That softly swelling on the gazing eye,
Dissolves in luxury the sinking soul,
Subjecting thoughts to your uncheck'd
control;

Fair nymph, whose teeth are white as
polish'd snow;

Sweetest of branches, which luxuriant
grow

From an illustrious race, whose deeds oft
claim

The eternal song, and feed the Poet's
flame;

O voice of love, whose tones, which melt
the heart,

New accents to the listening harp im-
part;

When you appear, the sun enfeebled
shows

Thy hair, which richer than his noon
beams glows.

Happy the man must above all appear,
Who favour'd dares thy presence soft
come near,

Melt at thy touch, hang on thy kindling
eyes,

Or waste his soul for thee in tender sighs.
O too enchanting look, that first could
dart,

Its keen persuasion to my troubled heart,
With love's bright radiance dim'd my
aching eyes,

And made me first the Poet's rapture
prize.

Than the famed Helen you art far more
fair,

And as chaste Dian pure and lovely are;
Thy form above Cassandras is arrayed
In charms, or †Græna's soft eyed maid,
And over Deirdra's soars, the mild and
young,

Whose fame by Erin's bards has oft been
sung;

And yet thy glowing charms unpraised
remain,

And all their brilliant splendour shines in
vain;

The lily sees unheard thy neck to grace,
The rose, to vaunt the blushes of thy
face,

Thy waist excels the ermines in its mold,
Thy tuneful song the stroke of death can
hold.

My heart bleeds ever wounded by thy
eyes,

My soul dissolves itself in ardent sighs,
Withered and pale I pining droop forlorn,
Like flowers the absence of the sun who
mourn;

Like the lone bird on evening's purple
wave,

I solitary sink towards the grave.

Thy breath alone can warm again my
heart,

For't more sweets than mornings can
impart.

In vain I fly, thy form pursues me fleet,
Thy presence still in solitude I meet.

In thickest crowds alone I seem to rove,
Imagination dwells with thee and love.

Thy spreading locks from Cupid's net
extend,

The rose and lily for thy cheek contend,
Thy accent soft thrills like the melting
string,

* Celebrated Irish beauty and heroine in the
reign of queen Elizabeth.

And thy eyes beam! Its power I dread
to sing;
Oh happy he! who from it speeds his
flight;
Oet hapless he! thy charms cant bless
his sight. Nam—a.

TO LUCY.

THE moth who round the taper flies
Inconscious of his fearful doom,
Mured by the bright destruction dies,
Rushing to a flaming tomb.
More blessed than I, who know my fate,
And all my danger plainly view,
Yet can't from thy loved charms retreat,
But eager what consumes pursue.
Enchanting maiden pity lend,
Whose tempting harms from me conceal;
Or kind at once my anguish end,
By letting balmy hope prevail.
If I am doomed your scorn to prove,
Envy how the moth expires;
Should live racked by slighted love,
He dies obtaining his desires.

HELIOTROPUS

THE FAREWELL.

WRITTEN ON LEAVING BUNCRANA, IN HIS
MAJESTY'S SHIP L'ARGUS, SEP. 1808.

"The wand'ring streams that shine between the
hills,
The grots that echo to the tinkling rills,
The whirling gales that pant among the trees,
The lakes that quiver to the curling breeze;
To move these scenes my meditation aid."

POPE.

AH! why will fortune thus our hopes
undo,
Why will her frowns our ev'ry step pur-
sue?
Can her relentless soul no pity feel,
For all our wand'rings round her sickle
wheel?
Will not her breast the softer passions
move,
The sigh of friendship, or the charms of
love?
No, ruthless dame! for ever changeful be,
A lover's anguish cannot plead with thee;
Friendship may wish, and hope, and sigh
in vain,
You but enjoy the friend and lover's pain.
Thus I lamented, as the fresh'ning gale,
Whistled along and fill'd the spreading
sail;
Sudden I turn'd, as nigh the point* we
drew.
But the lov'd spot receded from my view,
Eager I ran, and snatch'd the glass† a-
gain,
Eager I look'd, but found I look'd in vain;

* Dunes point in Lough Swilly, which when past
presents a view of Bunrana.
† Spy-glass.

And slowly turning, felt the lab'ring sigh,
And the full tear half glist'ning in my
eye,
Nor did I stop the mite—to friendship
dear,
Say can you call it an unmanly tear?
'Twas parting caus'd the limpid drop to
flow,
And I don't blush to pay the debt I owe.

Now down the fough the Argus plows }
her way,
Her hundred eyes† oft moisten'd by the
spray,
Hoodless of what we think, or what we
say;
Yet as if conscious how her guarded sides,
Spurn the white foam as swift along she
glides,
'Till quite surrounded by old Ocean's
wave,
Adieu Bunrana! was the sigh we gave,
And as from view the loss'ning land de-
cay'd,
Gave a last look, and to myself thus said,
"Wherever Happiness thou may'st dwell,
Whether with kings, or in the hermit's
cell,
Quit thy abode with all thy smiling train,
Peace, Joy, and Pleasure, and this spot
attain;
Here ev'ry charm of innocence impart,
And bless the cheerful mind, and gen'rous
heart,
Then may we hope for happier days to
come,
When wand'ring is no more the Sailor's
doom."

J.P.

TO WOMAN.

ADDRESSED TO THE AMIABLE MRS. B.

O woman! dear object of love and de-
light,
How oft has my lay been inscrib'd to
thy name,
With ardour increas'd, my fond vows still
I plight,
And give but the tribute thy merits can
claim.
With thee in life's path should I joyfully
tread,
The frowns of adversity ne'er could ap-
pal,
The sweet smile of woman, contentment
would spread,
And the moments of happiness ever
renew.
When urged by misfortune, and clouded
by grief,
We feel the corroding attacks of des-
pair,

† Alluding to the heathen mythology. The Ar-
gus has the image of a peacock, with a hundred
eyes painted in the tail, for the figure head.

And the sneers of the world, give no hopes
of relief,
To the endless distractions of sorrow
and care.

'Tis then lovely woman comes forth to
our aid,
(The only bright ray that enlightens the
gloom)
The charms of her converse, our bosoms
invade,
And again we think only of pleasures
to come.

In the dark hour of sickness when terrors
appear,
When the pangs of affliction embitter
the soul,
And hope (to the care-worn sufferer dear)
We cant in the joy-moving passions
enrol.

'Tis then, with an anxious desire to re-
lieve,
Dear woman approaches our grief to
attend,
Her anxious solicitude, bids us believe,
That she is our truest companion and
friend.

Her form, her endearments, her mild
beaming eyes,
The world's greatest masters have held
in controul,
Philosophers, sages, the learn'd and the
wise,
Submit to the charmer as lord of the
whole.

May woman remain then, thy solace and
pleasure,
And ever continue our glory and pride;
Possess'd of dear woman, I have such a
treasure,
Asought in the world can afford me
beside.

His Majesty's Ship L'Argus, J.P.
Cove of Cork, Dec. 1808,

THE SISTERS.

ADDRESSED TO THREE YOUNG LADIES OF —.
SEP. 1808.

AS Cupid one day in his moments of
pleasure,
Was shooting his amorous arrows each
way,
My joy at the moment was great beyond
measure,
Three arrows had pierc'd me as sighing
I lay.

The pain was so gentle, the wounds so en-
dearing,
So happy my "bosom's lord," sat on his
throne.

That sighing, I cried as from them I was
steering,
"Ah Cupid! why not give the three for
my own."

The sly boy replied, that the gift I re-
quested,
Formerit like mine was immoderately
great,
Then on Mary, and Sally, and Kitty I
rested,
And they must determine the sufferer's
fate. J.P.

His Majesty's Ship L'Argus.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

SONG.

THE smooth clear stream, that soft and
slow,
With noiseless tenor seeks the shade,
Gives every flower a warmer glow,
A brighter green to every glade,
And vainly strives to be concealed,
By freshness and perfume revealed.

So gentle Anna glides along,
So shuns all praise and all display;
And while she hears my simple song,
Knows not whose emblem I pourtray.

SONG.

WHEN bright the liquid light'nings fly,
From the blue heaven of thine eye,
Intranced I gaze my soul away,
And worship the celestial ray;
But when's obscur'd the spark divine,
In vapours of all conquering wine
I know thee mortal and no more
With fond idolatry adore.

TO MELESINA.

TIME was, while yet a stranger to love's
power,
Gaily I rovd through beauty's bright
parterre,
The varied sweets of every blooming
flower,
"Careless I sipt, nor fear'd the limy
snare.

Yet found I none, amid the banks of
spring,
That Melesina, might with thee com-
pare,
Nor e'er had Fancy on her wildest wing,
Yet rovd in quest of loveliness so rare.
Such not the Paphian goddess' self dis-
play'd,
The loves, and hours, and graces in her
train,
What time Anchises woo'd in Ida's shade,
And soft Adonis gazed in amorous pain.

And from that hour, consuming with love's
fire,
Oft have I struggled to dissolve the
chain,
And oft the tortur'd victim of desire,
Invok'd calm Reason to assert her reign.
Vain efforts all ! since not mere beauty
wove,
My soul's firm fetters, nor mere sense
betray'd,
Thy charms of soul warm'd reason into
love,
And Cupid triumphs by Minerv'a aid.

ON THE DEATH OF BENJAMIN HAUGHTON,
LATE OF BELFAST, SON OF SAMUEL HAUGHTON
OF CARLOW.

AND has thy gentle spirit wing'd its
flight ?
And are those eyes closed in eternal
night ?
Those eyes, which once I thought upon
my bier,
Should pour the tribute of an honest tear ;
For since thy in'ant form I first carest,
When life was newly kindled in thy
breast,
To this sad hour, on heavy pinions borne,
When o'er the extinguish'd spark of life
I mourn,
Have I not view'd thy fair, expanding
mind,
From the low dross of sordid arts refin'd,
Thy happy childhood, thy ingenious
youth,
Led on by nicest honour, firmest truth ?
Ardent to taste, and Faucy's heights to
soar,
Yet heedful still of Wisdom's sacred lore,
I view'd thy soul, fair beaming from thy
eye,
Whether compassion heav'd the pitying
sigh,
Or, whether social joys thy carés beguil'd,
And genuine pleasure in thy features,
smil'd,

That soul, where every generous feeling
shone,
Which candour and benevolence can own.
I view'd—and hoped a long protracted
day,
Would crown the promise of thy morning's
ray,
But thou hast low, and o'er thy youthful
urn,
'Tis mine, with unavailing tears to mourn.
O thou ! who dost not willingly destroy,
The tender sources of our blameless joy,
And when the billows of affliction roll,
Present'st an anchor to the sinking soul ;
Sweeten this bitter cup, and oh ! sustain
Her life, whose faithful heart is rent in
twain,
And whose unwearied cares have failed to
save,
Their dearest object from the dreary
grave,
And while her boy, unconscious for his sire,
Shall fondly seek, and anxiously inquire,
Oh ! blunt the barbed dart—thy healing
balm,
And thine alone, these throbbing griefs
can calm !
Thou wilt the dews of consolation shed,
Upon the father's venerable head ;
He who so oft has wept for other's woe,
Shall in this time of trial, comfort know,
And grateful sympathy her aid shall lend,
To him in whom the wretched find a friend,
Who, while beside his dying child he
mourn'd,
To Heaven his streaming eyes, adoring
turn'd,
And patient, stifled the parental moan,
To count the blessings which were still
his own ;
O may these blessings evermore increase,
May every sorrow end in perfect peace,
And far, oh far ! remote the period be,
When thus, dear friend our tears shall
stream for thee.

MARY LEADBEATER.

2nd. month, 1810.

DISCOVERIES AND IMPROVEMENTS IN ARTS MANU- FACTURES, &c.

Patent of *M. Randolph, Tschiffeli de Roche* for improvements in the processes of Brewing.

Dated Sept. 1809.

M. DE ROCHE's improvements in brewing consist :

1st. In a method of colouring porter by malt only, without losing any part

of its fermentescible substance, by means of roasting the skins or husks of the malt, after they have been separated from the ground malt.

2d. In making from malt vinegar, almost entirely deprived of essential oil, which will be previously separated from the malt itself.

3d. In brewing malt wine (*vin du malt*) free also from the essential oil.

4th. In making wash for distillation in such a manner, as to obtain a spirit, which shall be more neutral (purer) than that made by the common process.

For the first improvement, the skins are to be separated from pale dried malt by a mill in the usual manner; if these skins have any of the ground malt mixed with them, they are to be re-passed through the mill. The skins being roasted to a coffee colour, will give a fine pale colour to porter. The necessary quantity for a quarter of malt is about 42 *lbs.* of skins; which, when roasted will weigh about 31 *lbs.*: if a smaller quantity of the skins be used, a weaker colour will of course be obtained.

The colour is extracted from the roasted skins, either by mixing them with the ground malt previous to its being brewed, which will hinder the ground malt from having so great a tendency to clot together; or by infusing them in the cistern of cold water, by which means the colour will be extracted, the water will be rendered more fit for brewing, and it will filter very clear; or by making an infusion of the skins in warm water, or even by boiling them in water; or lastly by first moistening the skins, as long as they will imbibe any water, and then mixing them with beer which is already made, and stirring the whole together, once a day for about a week. This last method is the most efficacious, and it will at the same time clarify the beer.

The chief fact, which M. de Roche considers essential to brewing of porter, is that the roasted skins of malt will suffice to colour the porter; or, if used in less quantity, would form a colouring substance, in aid of other colouring matters, which brewers may use.

2. Vinegar made from malt should be brewed only from the pure ground malt carefully separated from the skins. This vinegar, will to a certainty, contain a less quantity of essential oil, than that in common use, because this oil principally re-

sides in the acrospire, which will be separated with the skins. The parts which are separated may be used to colour porter.

3. Malt wine brewed in the same manner as for vinegar, above directed, will possess the same advantage.

4. The spirit distilled from wash, brewed from malt prepared in the same way will also be more neutral or purer, and clearer than that made in the present mode.

The only apparent difficulty in this method of brewing, M. de Roche observes, will arise from the care that must be taken to prevent the ground malt from clotting together. In brewing porter, however, the admixture of the roasted husks diminishes the cohesion of the malt, the same end is obtained by adding the roots (commonly called malt dust) of the malt to the flower thereof, which also gives the beer more flavour. But there will not, in any case, be any danger of the ground malt clotting together if the water is put first into the mash tun, and the ground malt be sifted into it, or by any means put into it in a divided state, which may be easily effected.

Remark... The substance generally used now for colouring porter is burned sugar, which occasions considerable expense. If M. de Roche's process is found on trial to be equally efficacious, it will be a valuable discovery for brewers, particularly in this country, where sugar is so much dearer than in England.

Patent of Mr. John Frederick Archibold of Charlotte street Surrey, for a method of converting salt or sea-water into fresh water.

Dated April, 1809.

Mr. Archibold, in distilling fresh water from salt water uses stills, each of which has an outward case of metal; between the interior sides and bottom of which, and the exterior sides and bottom of the still a space is left vacant; but the still is so fastened to the top of the case, as to be impervious to steam in all parts

except by a safety valve. Water is to be put into the space between the case and the still, after the head and neck is put on; which not sustaining the pressure of the atmosphere will rise beyond the boiling heat, when fire is applied, and boil the liquor in the still, and there being no egress for the steam, but by the safety valve, a small fire will suffice to keep up this degree of heat, and keep the liquor always boiling.

An horizontal flue making some revolutions along the bottom of the case, where it comes in contact with the fire, may pass from thence into the chimney; and a narrow boiler may be placed at the back of the fire place, which may communicate with the case of the still.

When distillation is to be performed aboard a ship, a reservoir of salt water is to be placed upon the deck (through which reservoir the chimney of the fire may pass, and impart its heat) and from thence pipes, having a cock attached to each, may lead into the cases, and stills, for the purpose of their supply. From the necks of the stills, pipes are to be brought conducting the steam into vessels, for cooking provisions, &c.

The range is to have two metal doors in the front, each of which is attached by hinges to iron bolts; which bolts fit into staples affixed to the sides of the range; so that when the fire is not wanted for cooking, it can be entirely closed by these doors; but when required, the doors can be drawn out the length of the bolts, and form a screen between which and the fire, meat, &c. may be roasted. For the purpose of condensation, aboard a ship the tube containing the steam, may pass through the sides of the ship, and along any part of it outside which lies immediately in the water, and again entering the ship, may deposit the water produced by the condensation, into a vessel placed for its reception.

After the sea water has been distilled in this manner, it is to be passed through a filter, of the following construction.

A small cylindrical case, made of tin or other metal, is to be filled with powdered charcoal, each end of which is to be stopped by a circular cover, perforated with holes fine enough to prevent the charcoal from passing through. One end of this case is to be inserted into a cask partly filled with pounded charcoal, and the water being poured into the cask will filter out through the case.

Remarks. The mode of distillation above described, would be very beneficial for other purposes besides that mentioned, particularly for distilling spirituous liquors, as it would entirely prevent the empyreuma (caused by the burning of the ingredients of the distilled liquor at the bottom of the still) which occasions the disagreeable smokey taste, that it is not possible to remove, and which lowers the value of the spirits so much.

The process of filtration recommended for the distilled sea water is very judicious; as it will tend to deprive it of the flat insipid taste, it generally has, both by the operation of the charcoal, and that of the air, which will be mixed with it, in the most effectual manner, as it drops through it in the course of the filtration.

ACCOUNT OF NAUTICAL INVENTIONS OF MR. TREVETHICK.

Continued from p. 215, No. XX.

IV. Preparation of Ship Timbers, and improved system of Ship building.

Phil. Mag. v. 24, p. 428.

For a long period the only means employed to effect the bending of ship's planks, was by exposing them to the heat of open fires, and in most parts of Europe this is still the practice. As hitherto conducted, it has been found to be a tedious, slovenly process, attended with great expense of fuel, and unequal in its effects, some parts being only partially heated while others are quite burned.

Steam was therefore employed for this purpose; but steam sufficiently hot to destroy the sap, cannot be confined in vessels of any reasonable strength; wood so treated has been found liable to sudden decay; and

when planks beyond a certain thickness, are bent in this way, they are found to be injured from the temperature being too low to give the required flexibility; and owing to the want of a better method, the curving of strong timbers has hitherto been impracticable.

The process recommended (by Mr. Trevithick) instead of the above is to heat the timber and planks, by enveloping them on all sides with hot air and smoke, the coal tar contained in the latter entering into the pores of the wood at the same time. This process is so conducted, as to prevent the wood from being burned by it; all the heated air that reaches the timber, during the operation, being previously made to pass through the fire, and being by that means deprived of its oxygen, or that principle which maintains combustion, no burning can take place.

The means employed to effect the foregoing purpose, consists of horizontal, curvilinear flues, made of cast iron, adapted to the forms intended to be given to the wood, and furnished with a powerful, but simple apparatus, for supplying the force requisite to bend the timbers into the required form.

By this process even timbers of large dimensions can be bent to almost any shape: and they are heated throughout their whole length and substance, without alterations of temperature in the different parts as when exposed to open fires.

By this process the necessity of procuring bent timbers is done away; while at the same time that loss which is incurred by cutting straight or ill shaped timbers into proper forms is avoided, and that weakness which results from cutting across the grain and from scarfing, is obviated.

By this process, there will be a saving of the waste of time, which is necessary in the ordinary process of ship building, for *seasoning*, as it is called; and, which is of great importance, much of the labour now bestowed on trimming and chipping, to give form both to straight and crooked timbers, will be avoided, while the natural strength of the pieces will be left unimpaired.

The preparation of ship timbers described applies to the system of ship building now in use. But Mr. Trevithick proposes another mode of building in which no ribs or large timbers are required. Strange as it may appear, ribs give but little strength comparatively, and the stability of ships depends chiefly on the planks with which they are covered and lined. The ribs afford little or no strength to each other, and hence arises the facility with which ships break in two, when by any accident the middle is grounded, while the stem and stern are in deep water. The reason is obvious, for in this case there is nothing to bear the strain but the keel, the planks, and the lining.

It might be demonstrated, were it necessary, that if the space now occupied by the ribs, was supplied by a double row of planks, bent into the required curves, placed in the same order as the ribs, and so disposed, that the joinings of each row respectively should be covered by the solid parts of the other, that then a stronger structure would be obtained than results from the present mode of a single row of ribs. In adopting the mode of building just mentioned, straight grained planks of the greatest lengths might be used, and consequently the numerous scarfings and joinings of the present system be entirely done away.

But to obtain the greatest possible strength from the same quantity of materials, the bent planks, employed as substitutes for ribs, should (instead of being placed in the usual direction of the ribs) cross each other at the keel, and consequently up the sides of the ship, at an angle of 50° or 55°, so as to form with each other, at the points of intersection, a kind of lozenge. By this arrangement they would exert their strength in different directions, and the whole would be made to act as a combination of so many diagonal spurs, giving strength and solidity to the structure.

Mr. Trevithick thinks it obvious, that a ship so constructed must be at least twice as strong as one built in the common method: and he adds,

this, that if it should start an outside plank, it would still be safe, the crossing of the rib-planks preventing the admission of water in such quantity, as to be beyond the power of moderate pumping to keep under; whereas when a ship of the common construction starts a plank, while labouring in a heavy sea, nine times out of ten she founders.

Mr. T. supposes also that the advantages of this plan in point of economy and strength (from the diminished number of joinings, from being enabled to employ straight-grained planks, at all times to be procured with comparative ease, and of considerable lengths) are too manifest to need further proof, and that if it were adopted, there would be no need to send persons abroad to buy timber; our own forests being sufficient to supply us with straight timber for 100 years to come, and at half the expense; during which time more would be growing.

Remarks.... If it were even possible to bend straight timber of the size proper for ribs of ships in the manner proposed in this paper, which is much doubted, the fibres at the outside of the curve would be so much divided and broken by the great strain they would receive in the operation, that the strength of the timber must be greatly impaired.

The method proposed of building ships entirely of planks disposed in two or more series, is objectionable on account of the great difficulty of the execution, and from the great expense it would occasion. The operation of bending the planks round the bow of a large vessel, it would seem has not been witnessed by the proposer of the plan, or he would not write so lightly of planking a whole vessel transversely, which would require as much more labour as the length of the ship exceeds the depth of the bow.

Mr. Trevithick is mistaken as to the facility of procuring timber fit for planks; next to knee pieces, and timber of extraordinary dimensions for great ships, it is the dearest timber used in ships; and it is so far

becoming scarce, that it is impossible to get plank of the length that was formerly common; the average of that in use now, not being two-thirds of the length of that, easily procured in times not very remote.

Mr. Trevithick's remarks on the weakness of the present mode of building ships, are however extremely just. Mr. Mackonochie observes (in the prospectus of his work, entitled *A Philosophical and Experimental inquiry into the laws of resistance of non-elastic fluids*) "That it will be received with surprize by those, who have been in the habit of considering a ship as the noblest effort of the human genius, to hear it asserted, that in a mechanical point of view, it is the feeblest, most inartificial, and unworkman-like structure in the whole range of mechanics." But his assertions are accompanied with the most convincing proofs; and it would not be difficult to corroborate them by farther demonstrations.

The method proposed by Mr. Trevithick would certainly be stronger and better than the old mode, but the expense and difficulty of it would render the trial of it unadvisable, and must totally prevent its coming into general use, especially as there is a mode of building ships now known, and proved by the actual construction of a ship on that plan, which has for six years stood all weathers on the Atlantic ocean, without suffering the least injury, and which method unites the greatest strength to cheapness. It is described in our 17th number p.439. And if builders and seamen could conquer their aversion from improvement, which they too often condemn by the fatal appellation of *innovation*, and would calmly investigate the advantages this method affords, there can be little doubt that it would meet that adoption which it so much merits.

Mr. Trevithick in proposing his ship of plank alone, should have noticed Mr. Wilson's patent for building boats in this method; many made in which mode, are in the king's service, and have been often seen on the Thames. He can therefore have no pretensions to be the original.

nal inventor of the plan. But though it answers very well for boats, it does not follow that it would do for ships; the difference between the labour of beuding three or four inch planks and half inch boards, as well as the cost, is indeed so vastly great, as to show at once the inexpediency of the latter application.

Files and other instruments for various uses, made of stone ware, by G. Cumberland, esq.

Phil. Journal, vol. 25, p. 257.

Mr. Cumberland having found the wear of steel files to be very expensive in shaping some substances; it occurred to him, when considering what might be the best remedy, that as stone-ware is so hard as to blunt files, files might be as well made of stone-ware.

The first use he made of this suggestion was, to fold up in muslin, cambric, and Irish linen, separate pieces of wet clay, forcing them by the pressure of the hand into the interstices of the threads, so as to obtain a correct mould, on divesting them of the covering.

These Mr. Cumberland had well baked, and immediately found he had procured an entire new species of file capable even of destroying steel; and extremely useful in cutting glass, polishing and rasping wood, ivory, and all sorts of metals.

Mr. Cumberland having since reflected, that in glass grinding (the stones for which come from the north and are very expensive) in flattening metallic mirrors, laying mezzotinto grounds, and a number of operations that require unexpensive friction, these stone-ware graters, may ultimately become very useful. Mr. Cumberland thinks this invention the more important, as in all operations of grinding, a great deal of manual labour must first be bestowed on the tool, whereas by this method it may be moulded in an instant, if a press is used as in pipe making, and the expense is so vastly inferior to that incurred in constructing even the cheapest file.

Mr. Nicholson, in a note on this paper, states, that this ingenious invention promises to be of consider-

able use in the arts. The abrasion of surfaces is performed, either by a toothed tool as in filing, rasping, &c. or by a grinder in which cutting or hard particles are bedded with considerable firmness in a softer mass; or by scowering, polishing, &c. in which hard particles are more or less slightly retained in a soft or tenacious substance. Mr. Cumberland's instruments appear to promise great utility in the first and last of these processes; that is, they may be used either with or without a fretting powder.

On a species of moss proposed as a substitute for wool, &c. in stuffing beds and furniture, by M. Parmentier.

Annales de Chimie v. 25, p. 175.

The dearthness of wool, and more especially the property it has of imbibing putrid miasmata, and propagating contagious disorders, suggested the idea of supplying its place in beds by the *hypnum crispum*, L. a kind of moss of a moderate length, and of a somewhat fragrant smell. Mr. Isengard has sent to the society of Encouragement a specimen of this moss taken from a mattress, that has been in use for some years, with a paper in which he relates the methods of preparing it for domestic purposes.

This moss may be met with in Italy in every wood, particularly on beech trees; it is gathered in August and September; and is beaten like flocks; it does not form any lumps like them, or retain moisture, is little liable to decay, and costs only the price of the labour, so that four mattresses made with this moss will cost less than one of wool. It is only necessary to dry it in the shade to preserve its fragrance. No animal moisture produces any fermentation in this moss, as it does in wool; but lest wet should occasion it to germinate, it is recommended to steep it in lime-water, which destroys its power of vegetation.

Remarks... The fact mentioned in the above paper may be of use to the poor in this country; where doubtless moss may be procured fit for beds as well as elsewhere. Mr. Parmentier or Mr. Isengard, have not

however the merit of being the first discoverers of this useful application of moss.

Dr. Westring of Stockholm, many years ago, noticed it among other properties of mosses, and lichens, particularly relative to dyeing, in a paper inserted in the Transactions of the Royal Academy of Stockholm, wherein he states that they are used in several places for stuffing chairs, and sofas, instead of horse hair, and that the kinds most proper for this purpose are the *Lich Chalybeiformis*, *L. Barbatus*, and *L. Plicatus*.

Improved File for letters and receipts.

Trans. Soc. Arts.

A voucher cannot be disengaged from the common file without defacing it, by cutting it off, or by removing many others to get at it; and to return it to its proper place, is attended with more trouble and inconvenience. All this is avoided by the file contrived by Mr. White, which is perfectly simple and efficacious, and can cost little more than the common file.

Mr. White's file consists of a small metal tube, just large enough to admit the wire of the file, with a convex circular plate soldered to its lower end, to keep the papers from slipping off, in the centre of which a hollow screw is tapped to admit a screw on the lower end of the wire; which is of the usual size, and length, and hooked and pointed at its top in the common manner to receive the papers.

When any paper is wanted from this file (instead of taking off those above it, which cannot be replaced without much loss of time and trouble) the papers above it are to be slipped up towards the hook, the wire must then be unscrewed and removed with the papers upon it. The paper wanted may then be taken off the tube; the wire be put into its former place and screwed fast, and the other papers be drawn down the tube as before. To return the voucher, the same operation is to be repeated, and the voucher restored to its proper place.

The upper edges of the tube should be made conical with sharp edges,

and to fit the wire closely to admit papers to pass over it with more facility.

The Society of Arts presented Mr. White, with their silver medal for this invention.

Remarks....This contrivance will be found very useful in counting houses and offices. Some for the same purpose, that is effected by it, paste their receipts in books; but a less troublesome way is to pin them together in the order of their dates, and fold them together in the manner of eastern manuscripts, and keep them in port folios.

Wire files cannot be conveniently put in drawers, where all vouchers of consequence should be kept, it may therefore be of use to state a method of applying the principle of the above invention to a flexible file of silk bobbin or cord, which has just occurred to the writer; which is to have in the middle of the bobbin a small cylindrical clasp, such as is used for ladies' necklaces, which will then admit the papers to be separated and united again on it in the same manner as on Mr. White's file, above described.

Cheap method of teaching to write, by copies engraved on slates, by Mr. T. Warren of Buckingham street, London.

Trans. Soc. Arts.

These slates have horizontal parallel lines engraved on them at regular intervals, similar to those ruled on common writing copies: one of the small letters of the alphabet is engraved at the head of every second space, as a copy which the writer is to imitate. The numerals from one to nine are engraved in a reversed position in the intervals between the lines for the letters, so that on turning the slate, the learner may copy the figures in the same manner. In each case he may either copy the character at the head of each line, or may continue to copy a single one on all the lines.

Larger slates are prepared with examples in addition and subtraction;—these lessons may be varied at the pleasure of the master, by the method pointed out in the following

communication from Mr. Warren to the Society of Arts.

To the Society for the encouragement of arts manufactures, &c.

The great utility of the engraved slates in instructing the children of the poor, particularly in the art of writing, has been amply proved in several respectable charity schools in Bury St. Edmund's, and in many private families, for the last nine months.

This invention occasions great saving in writing-paper, pens, ink, and labour in teaching.

In making use of these slates, the slate pencil is recommended to be placed in a quill, and to be held exactly after the manner of a pen, by which means the hand is made pliant preparatory to the use of that instrument on paper.

Small slates without capitals, which are the sort recommended to schools in general, are sold for fifteen shillings the dozen, by one of which all the children of a family may learn to write, and with care it will last for ages. Small slates with capital letters, are sold at one guinea the dozen. They may be procured from messrs. Champante and Whitrow, Jewry-street, and from messrs. W. and C. Child, lower Thames-street, London.

The method recommended in making use of the small slate, with the two additional sums engraved upon it, is to cut off with the pencil the three lower lines for the first sum, then four lines, then five, &c. by which means the two sums answer the purposes of many; this slate has been proved to be of great use in schools. The large slate, with the first four rules of arithmetic engraved on it, is recommended as a useful article in private families, as by it children may be exercised in those rules with very little trouble.

An addition sum may be cut upon a slate, so as to effect the purpose of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, by setting the lines at a considerable distance from each other, and making the upper numbers the largest for subtracting, but it makes rather a complex article, and examples for children cannot be too plain.

Some slates have been prepared with designs engraved upon them for learning to draw from, but this is not considered as a very important article.

The Society of Arts, &c. voted Mr. Warren their silver medal for this communication.

Caution to Apothecaries and Druggists, against a dangerous poison, sold for Glass of Antimony, which latter is used in preparing Tartar emetic, and other antimonial medicines.

Phil. Mag. March 1810.

The editor of the Philosophical Magazine states that he is indebted to a respectable manufacturing chemist, Luke Howard esq. of Plaiston, for the following information which he considers himself imperiously called upon to circulate as widely as possible.

A very large quantity of glass of lead has by some means, found its way into the London market, as glass of antimony. This criminal imposition is sure to be detected, in the operation to which glass of antimony is chiefly applied, the making of emetic tartar; but it is highly needful to the consumers of smaller quantities, as in the *vitrum ceratum*, and *vinum antimonii*, that the following distinctive characters of the two be extensively circulated, in order that those, who may have bought glass of antimony within 12 or 18 months past, may assure themselves of its being genuine. *The public health and even the lives of some patients, may be considered as at stake on the occasion.*

Glass of antimony has a rich brown or reddish colour, with the usual transparency of coloured glasses. The glass of lead in question is of a deeper and duller colour against the light, is much less transparent, and even in some samples quite opaque.

The specific gravity of glass of antimony never exceeds 4.95; that of glass of lead is 6.95; or in round numbers, the comparative weights (for the same bulk) are as five to seven.

Let twenty grains of the true antimonial glass be rubbed fine in a

glass mortar, adding half an ounce of good muriatic acid, it dissolves with an hepatic smell, the solution is turbid, but has no sediment. The glass of lead, substituted for it, treated in the same manner, turns the acid yellow, gives out an oxymuriatic odour, and leaves much sediment.

Let a little of each solution be separately dropped into water. The true kind deposits oxide of antimony, in a copious white coagulum; or (if the water has been previously tinged with sulphuret of ammonia) in a fine orange precipitate. The substitute gives no precipitate in water, and in the other liquid, one of a dark brown or olive colour.

A solution of the substitute in distilled vinegar has a sweet taste, together with the other properties of acetate of lead.

A very small mixture of the substitute with the true kind, is detected, by its debasing more or less, the bright orange colour of the precipitate, thrown down by the sulphuret of ammonia from the solution in any acid.

The samples of the glass of lead substituted for glass of antimony, which have hitherto been detected, are of a much thicker and clumsier kind than it: but the appearance is not to be trusted, and no specimen should be allowed to pass, without a trial either of the specific gravity, or of its chemical properties.

Remarks....We feel it a duty to second the humane intentions of the editor of the Philosophical Magazine, in giving publicity to this information: especially as there can be little doubt that some of this dangerous substitute for glass of antimony, will find its way to the Dublin market; and it is very possible it may do so also to our province, either from thence, or directly from London, or some other English port.

It can be scarcely possible, but that there must be some legal method of punishing the villainous introducers of this noxious composition, and we hope sincerely the matter will be taken up at the fountain head, with that spirit which such an unfeeling

attack on the lives and health of the public, from the lowest motives of a paltry lucre, deserves; and that they will meet with that just retribution, which a crime, little short of murder merits.

We take the opportunity of the subject, to mention the farther information relative to the medicine mentioned in our last number, as so effectual for calculous complaints, that the dose of magnesia administered by Mr. Brande to his calculous patients varied from 15 to 20 grains, night and morning, according to a note in the same number of the Philosophical Magazine from whence the foregoing paper was extracted.

Method of fitting up in a portable form: the Electric Column, lately invented by Mr. J.A. de Luc, and of some experiments made with it by B.M. Foster esq. of Essex.

Phil. Mag. V. 35, 205.

Mr. Forster having been informed that a row of galvanic plates had been constructed without any fluid being interposed, and that it acted very sensibly on a gold leaf electrometer, formed one of about 200 small circles of zinc, and the same number of disks made of Dutch gold leaf cemented to blotting paper by gum Arabic: and through these circles, or plates, a silken string was passed for connecting them together.

This small instrument acted sufficiently powerful on a very delicate gold leaf electrometer, to induce a trial of an increased number of plates; and accordingly Mr. Forster made one of 500 plates of each sort, using silver leaf instead of the Dutch gold, and inserting the whole in a glass tube fitted up with brass cups, screws and balls. The instrument thus prepared may be called an *electric rod*.

Mr. Forster constructed some of these rods with plates not connected by a string through them; which he thinks may be the best mode, provided the glass tube is nearly of the same diameter as the plates; but that unless the tube fits accurately the other method will be preferable, as the plates can be more

easily placed regularly. The Dutch metal, or silver leaf, may be fastened to the paper with gum, or paste made over the fire with flour and water, and the blotting paper should be pasted together, double, before the leaf is put on.

A rod of this kind of five hundred pairs of plates, five eighths of an inch, in diameter, attracted a small piece of Dutch metal up to the ball at the zinc pole, and adhered to it.

A very light ivory needle, turning on a point like a magnetic needle, was attracted by the rod when the finger, or a key, was placed near one end of the needle, and the ball near the same end at the opposite side.

A coated jar had a slight charge given to it by one of these electric rods.

With three rods combined, a small brass ball, suspended by silk between two bells, vibrated between them and caused them to ring.

Five rods, each of 500 series, kept two small bells ringing for more than four hours; the bells were supported on glass pillars. The ringing sometimes stopped a while, and then went on again.

Three rods, of 500 series, insulated in a box, from which wires were made to communicate with two bells, kept then ringing from Tuesday the 27th of February 1810, to March the 11th, and Mr. Forster

thinks that it may be possible so to adjust the weight of the clapper of the bell to the power of the rods, and to guard them so well from damp (which appears to him to be the chief cause of their ceasing to act) that the bells may continue to ring for *several years* without intermission, so as to appear to those who do not consider the subject philosophically, to be a perpetual motion.

Mr. Forster made one of these columns (of 500 series, each about a quarter of an inch in diameter) so as to resemble a snake or eel, putting at the zinc end a piece of cork, cut so as to resemble the head, and another piece formed like the tail, at the other end. The string which connected the plates, was wound round a pin in the mouth to keep it fast, and it was used without a glass tube. This apparatus may be called an artificial electric eel, or *gymnotus electricus*. This eel acts very powerfully on electrometers. The power seems to vary in it much more than that of the columns in the tubes: but provided the outside of these tubes be dry, Mr Forster does not know that the strength of their electric power changes.

The rods when combined were placed on insulated stands. Mr. Forster performed several other experiments, but those recited, exhibit most the power of the apparatus.

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Cursory Remarks on Corpulency; by a Member of the college of Surgeons, 1s.

MONTHLY RETROSPECT OF POLITICS.

WHEN the Walcheren expedition sailed from England, men of observation, judging from the past, anticipated the failure, which has since so distressingly occurred. Affected vigour, and real imbecility characterized the movements of administration. Instead of judicious arrangements to overcome difficulties, in imitation of the energy of our mighty Opponent, but without possessing his strength of judgment, and to hide the weakness of their counsels by the artifice of the ass clothed in the skin of the lion, they despised the obstructions which lay in their way, and rushed rashly forward, even contrary to the advice of the military and naval officers, with whom they

consulted. As might easily have been foreseen, they failed, and probably an expedition to any other point would have been equally unsuccessful, at least under such management; and even if the Opposition had succeeded in getting into their places, and had undertaken the expedition which some of them in their blaine of ministry have since recommended in preference, to the north of Germany, or the peninsula of Spain and Portugal, the result most probably would not have been materially different. We know what has happened, but who can calculate the disasters likely to arise from directing the system of Continental warfare to another point? It has hitherto emi-

nently failed in all shapes, and the future would most likely only be a repetition of the past.

As men of discernment predicted the result of the expedition, so they are not disappointed by the termination of the parliamentary inquiry into this business. Ministers had majorities in their favour, but such is the constitution of the house of commons, and the mode of election, that the decision of those termed the representatives do not frequently sympathize with the voice of the people. We often see a willing parliament, and a discontented people, and a ministry may be imbecile towards foreign nations, and yet employ the powers they possess by exerting a destructive energy against the liberties of their country.

In our last retrospect we noticed the committal of John Gale Jones to Newgate by the house of commons on the complaint of Charles Yorke, and of the opinion entertained by the freeholders of Cambridgeshire, who on account of his conduct in shutting the gallery of the house of commons, and for accepting a sinecure refused again to return Mr. Yorke to parliament. This month we have to record some very important events which have arisen out of the ill judged complaint brought forward against Gale Jones and his consequent committal. Great events sometimes arise from apparently trivial causes, and an injudicious exertion of power has not unfrequently led to important consequences.

Those who could last session bear to hear of an open traffic for seats, and who could shelter Percival and Castlereagh for their share in such transactions without manifesting any displeasure against the encroachments of the crown, are now vehement in their censure on Sir Francis Burdett, because he in a letter to his constituents asserted the rights of the people and published the substance of a speech which he made in parliament in favour of the liberation of John Gale Jones, and against the right of the house of commons to imprison at their pleasure.—Leithbridge the member for Somersetshire, a man hitherto little known in politics, and only remarkable for a motion against double barrelled guns

in fowling, complained of his letter as a breach of privilege, and for two days interrupted the debates on the Walcheren expedition. The complaint was at length suspended, but in the course of the ensuing week was again resumed, when the letter of Sir Francis was voted to be a scandalous and libellous paper, and after a long debate Sir Francis was ordered to be committed to the tower, by a majority of 190 against 152, who voted only for a reprimand. Sir Francis resisted the warrant as illegal, and four days after, his house was broken open by a civil and military force, when he was conveyed to the tower. The populace of London and Westminster resented this attack on their favourite: and in some conflicts between them and the military, several were wounded and some lives were lost. Sir Francis has since given the legal notice that he will commence actions against the speaker and the sergeant at arms, and the business is in train to be brought before a British jury unless the progress is arrested by some point of law, when a discussion most highly interesting will take place. In the mean time, much important consideration occurs. The privileges of the house of commons were originally assumed to guard them against the prerogative of the crown; but were certainly never intended to be turned against the people, who are the legitimate fountain of all power.

Several occurrences strongly show the discordancy between the people, and those called their representatives. The house of commons imprison Gale Jones, and the freeholders of Cambridgeshire eagerly embrace an opportunity of not returning the member, who complained of him, after he had represented that county for upwards of 20 years. The commons send Sir Francis Burdett to the tower, but the people loudly cheer him, and are only restrained by a vast military force.

On certain points both sides of the house approach pretty closely. The opposition last year showed no disposition to stop the trafficking in seats; this year Sir Francis is generally condemned. He belongs to neither party, and his manly conduct is too forcible for the nerves of

oppositionists, who instead of being anxiously desirous of lessening the power of corruption, are seeking to have the direction of it in their own hands: hence he is not a favourite with either party, but the people hail him as their staunch undaunted advocate. If timid counsels had swayed in former days, we should have had no Magna Charta, no bill of rights, nor any of those advantages, which reformations have produced. To such generous spirits we are indebted for highly important privileges.

"Such souls, tis true, but peep out once an age.

The tongue of malice attempts to asperse them, calumny arraigns their motives, and attempts to lower them to the standard of those

"Dim lights of life, that burn a length of years,
Useless, unseen, as lamps in sepulchres."

but the virtuous of the present day do justice to them, and their names will live in the recollection of a grateful posterity. Perhaps nothing more strikingly shows that "one good deed was never wrought in vain," than the recollection that the vigorous exertions made by Wilkes and the electors of Middlesex in former days, had a most salutary effect in the present crisis in preventing the expulsion of Sir Francis; an event which without doubt would have been attended with his re-election by the inhabitants of Westminster. The house wisely stopped short, and after hearing a strong letter addressed by him to the speaker, voted, that as Sir Francis Burdett was already in the tower, no further procedure was necessary.

In reviewing his conduct, he is certainly entitled to much praise for his cool determined conduct. He has been censured by his enemies, and the enemies of liberty, as also by some well intentioned, timid people, as having by his resistance been the cause of the bloodshed which ensued, but surely not he who resists, but they who compel to the necessity of resistance in a just cause, occasion all the mischief, which takes place. Sir Francis *used no violence*, he only resisted, that force might be applied, and the case more strongly laid for a legal investigation. In our

part of his letter it is not easy to understand him; he talks of the commons "lording it over the king and the people"—We see no tendency or leaning to the former, nor can we perceive the advantage of exalting the monarchical part of the constitution in the present day. Does Sir Francis really mean all he says on this subject? if he does it is difficult to understand him, and we are unwilling to suppose he means to deceive. He ought to be more explicit, and give no room to suspect that he uses false colours.

However we may object to this part of the Baronet's conduct in compliance with our plan of strict impartiality, he is certainly entitled to much merit for bringing the question to a legal decision. The virtuous Hampden resisted the payment of shipmoney when laid on by the sole authority of a king: Wilkes by his resistance to the warrant of a Secretary of State, procured a judicial determination against the validity of general warrants, and Sir Francis resists the authority of the house of commons to imprison at their pleasure, not in maintenance of their right to be free from obstructions in their proceedings, but for a supposed libel on one of their members in the first instance of John Gale Jones, and in the other for a libel on the house. If we look back to the page of history, it will be found that by the exertions of public spirited individuals, our liberties have from time to time been snatched from the grasp of power, and a foundation gradually laid for the security of the rights of the people. Power and privilege are essentially different. It is fitting that the house of commons should possess the privilege of defence in the furtherance only of the public service, but not the power of annoyance against the people in support of an imaginary or assumed dignity. Let us suppose a corporation, over which the people retain little influence either by popular election, or by a reciprocity of feeling but of which a large proportion is returned by ministerial influence, assuming a power to imprison at their pleasure, and the danger to liberty arising from such assumption must be apparent. So circumstanced, who can say whose

turn will come next to suffer under the exercise of this claim?

It is one of the unfavourable symptoms of the decay of public spirit, and of the state of apathy so prevalent at present, niggardly to deny praise to courageous spirits, who step forward in the public cause. Many are so firmly grounded in the creed of selfishness, which they have learned from a consciousness of their own motives, that they consider virtue only a name, and a notion altogether unreal. Hence in part arises that systematic plan of detraction, and calumny, which pursues all who think independently for themselves. But "wisdom is justified of her children," and it is inherent in the nature of virtue to outlive the puny efforts of malignity, and establish a character that will survive the illiberal party spirit of the day:

Their sons will blush, their fathers were
his foes."

In the present case it is pleasing to find that Sir Francis Burdett possesses a most amiable private character. He was taken in the midst of his family circle, that sanctuary of domestic virtues, supported by the affection and firmness of a beloved wife, and in the very act of teaching his son to translate *MAGNA CHARTA*.

The motion of Sir Samuel Romilly to liberate John Gale Jones has been negatived, because he would not consent to present a petition acknowledging his sorrow for offending the house. A petition of such a humiliating nature, Sir Samuel justly remarked was more likely to be the effect of hypocrisy, than of any real conversion. John Gale Jones prefers honourable imprisonment to any compromise of his principle. A liberal subscription is raising to indemnify him for his present sufferings.

The inhabitants of Westminster have met, and published strong resolutions in favour of Sir Francis Burdett, with an address of thanks to him, and a petition to the house of commons for the liberation of their representative, and in favour of a reform in the constitution of that house. All these will be found on record at the close of this article.

We wish to preserve them for future reference, and to complete the history of the present period. Every thing at this meeting was, as it ought to be, peaceable and firm, equally disappointing those, who expected outrage, or cowardly abandonment of principle. Ministers were alarmed, and had a large military force in the vicinity, but no pretext was afforded them for calling in its aid. If Opposition expected that the people would be timid and time-serving like themselves, their disappointment would prove equally great. After this meeting how must our Irish member George Ponsonby feel himself lowered: he who declared his persuasion that in case of expulsion, the electors of Westminster would not again return Sir Francis. The conduct of public men and candidates for place should be remembered—that the advantages of their return to power may be duly appreciated. It is worthy to be recollected, that this same leader of opposition, last session extended his forgiveness to Lord Castlereagh for his conduct respecting the trafficking in seats, on the plea, that the practice was too general to be made the object of any particular notice: thus assuming the prevalence of the evil as a pretext for its continuance. But he was conscious his side of the house wanted similar indulgence, and the people may see how little dependence they can have in such men either in or out of place. The times require more firm defenders of the rights of the people.

The house of commons submitted to receive the petition and remonstrance; but reluctance, arising from false notions of offended dignity, was evident. It is the privilege of superior minds only to recede with dignity. They must perceive that they hold opinions different from the majority out of doors. We most ardently wish that the democratic part of our government may be fully restored, by such a reform of the house of commons as that they may accurately prove the organ of the public will—*THE PUBLIC WILL THEIR GUIDE, THE PUBLIC GOOD THEIR AIM*. At present the state of the public finances will probably bring all ranks to a feeling sense of our situation,

The system of taxation cannot be pushed much further. Huskisson says we cannot go on without reducing the expenditure to the state of the income, and Lord Cochrane at the meeting of the Westminster electors points out the danger in strong terms.

"I in my conscience (said the noble lord) believe, that this country cannot rely for its security upon the navy, from the circumstances in which that branch of our defence is now from many causes placed. The fact was, that, at this moment, there were not for the repairs of our present shipping six weeks materials in Plymouth dock; that near half the artificers had been discharged, and that we were absolutely without the means of building one half of a 74 gun ship."

What say the advocates of war to these assertions? Nations like individuals sometimes blindly rush on their ruin. A vigilant care of the public purse, and a rigid curtailment of every unnecessary expense including the complete cutting up of corruption by the roots, can alone preserve from external pressure and internal commotion, and this happy consummation can alone be obtained through a reformed system of representation, in which the unbiassed voice of the nation shall have due weight.

The freeholders of Middlesex are to meet to consider of the imprisonment of Sir Francis Burdett, as are also the inhabitants of the borough of Carnarthen and the livery of London. We trust there will be a general expression of the sense of the nation, as was exemplified last year in the addresses to Colonel Wardle. The friends of the people should not be left unsupported.

A decree was passed the beginning of last month in France. It relates to state prisoners, and the preamble says, "that there is a certain number of persons in the state prisons, whom it is not convenient, either to bring to trial, or to set at liberty—that though they would be condemned by the tribunals to capital punishments, superior considerations oppose their being brought to trial; that several are men accustomed to crimes, but who cannot be condemned by our courts, though they have the certainty of their culpability."

The editor of an English paper (the Morning Chronicle) remarks, "such is the horrible nature of Bonaparte's tyranny and the debased state of the people to whom he dares so fearlessly to avow it."—On looking back for a few years, can we discover no other country, to whom the editor's pity might have been extended? We have heard of state prisoners long detained, and after the lapse of years discharged, without being brought to trial. Censure ought to be even-handed.

Before we arraign Bonaparte, let us examine if our rulers are sufficiently clean-handed to appear as accusers. We dislike despotism in every shape, and so far as Bonaparte is a despot, he has our cordial disapprobation. But let us not mistake cowardly abuse for virtuous indignation. Let us even have the generosity to praise an enemy. He has produced an amelioration in the countries, which he has over-run. It is said that by judicious measures, at Naples, the Lazzaroni, that indolent and mendicant race have been restored to habits of industry, and consequently to a higher scale in the rank of accountable moral agents.

A disagreement has taken place between the governor and the house of assembly of Jamaica, occasioned by a bill passed by the house of assembly to prevent the Methodists from instructing the negroes, being refused his assent by the governor. We have thus at once an instance of the inveterate prejudices of the West Indians against our sable brethren, and of the cruel intolerance of bigotry, alike blind to the dictates of justice and sound policy. A well educated slave is less dangerous than one brought up in ignorance, and we have no doubt but that the instructions of the Methodists, would ameliorate the negro, and render him, even though still kept in a state of slavery, a more useful and less dangerous member of society. Ignorance always makes men dangerous, and fits them for outrages.

Henry Parnell has failed in persuading the house of commons to appoint a committee to investigate the nature of the system of tithes in Ireland. Considering the circumstan-

s of our country, where perhaps no parts out of ten, of our population are dissenters from the national establishment. tithes are a most oppressive grievance, and a very great obstruction to agriculture. They are like disagreeable to those who pay, and to the humane clergyman, who by this system is liable to be engaged in perpetual altercation with his neighbours. But such is the dread of innovation, that rather than make some alterations to give strength and stability, every thing is put to the hazard, that things may be retained in the old state without repair, until some mighty revolution overwhelms it in one general ruin.

At a meeting of the freeholders of the county of Tyrone, held at Ennagh, resolutions have been passed in favour of the Catholics, provided they concede the veto on the nomination of bishops. We should hail this event as an omen of increasing liberality so far as it goes, but we could divest ourselves of the suspicion, that election politics had so much influence in this seemingly liberal attempt to do justice to our countrymen, whose creed differs from the church by law established.

We quote from the *Morning Chronicle*, the following paragraph and resolution. They entirely accord with our sentiments, as we have frequently expressed them in the retrospect. "CATHOLICS—Some resolutions were adopted by the Catholics of the county of Tipperary, at a meeting held on the 31st of March, which express a strong desire to obviate the difficulties that have arisen in the discussion of the Catholic claims—after adverting to the apprehensions entertained (which they consider as the only remaining obstacle to Catholic freedom) let the future appointments of Catholic prelates may be able to a foreign influence, the second resolution states—

"That although we consider such apprehensions as wholly groundless, and contrary to long experience of the acknowledged virtues and unimpeached good conduct of our prelates, yet, being earnestly desirous to conciliate all our Protestant countrymen, we feel every wish and hope, that those apprehensions may be obviated; and for that purpose, that

some temperate measures may, in the event of Catholic Emancipation, be upon mature deliberation devised, which shall render such future elections substantially domestic; either by the votes of the surviving prelates, or by the choice of the clergy of the diocese, in chapter assembled, or by such other proceeding as shall be found compatible with Catholic doctrine."

The state of the public mind is improving, and has most materially improved within the last 18 months. For this change we are in a considerable degree indebted to the investigation of last year on the conduct of the Duke of York. Then many of the secrets of corruption were laid open. The imprisonment of John Gale Jones, and of Sir Francis Burdett in the present session, is producing equally salutary effects to which may also be added, the termination of the inquiry into the expedition to Walcheren. This combination of circumstances loudly proclaims the necessity of reform. As an index of the change of public opinion we contrast the difference in the language of the editors of news-papers, many of whom are more solicitous to please than to instruct. They are coming round, and express sentiments more inclining to the popular side. The weather-cocks are veering round, as the wind is blowing in a different direction.

It is pleasing to find that a sentiment is gaining ground in favour of mitigating the punishment of death in certain cases, and that a plan is in agitation among the proprietors of bleach greens in this country to petition the legislature to change the punishment of death for robbing bleach-greens, to transportation or imprisonment, coupled with a system of hard labour. Additional security would thus be given to bleach greens, by substituting a more mild, but more effectual punishment. Now many escape from an opinion very generally, and very justly prevalent, that the punishment is disproportioned to the offence. Perhaps nothing shows the force of this opinion more strongly than that witnesses and jurors will prefer to go to the very brink of perjury rather than to convict when death is the penalty. If the law

were changed, convictions would more readily follow, and the prevention of crimes would be effectuated by substituting certainty to severity, in the mode of punishment. The law is too severe for the present temper of the times, the progress of knowledge has meliorated the minds of men, and induced them to apportion more accurately the punishment to the crime. The law should keep pace with this improvement, and Sir Samuel Romilly deserves great praise for his exertions to lessen the number of capital punishments. Our system of jurisprudence is so sanguinary as to defeat the avowed purpose of severity. It is only sanguinary in the letter, and is extremely lax in the execution. Of two evils humanity prefers to let the guilty escape, although offences are thus multiplied, and offenders by their frequent escapes are rendered more incorrigible, rather than punish with a severity altogether disproportioned to the offence. The twelve tables of the Roman law, were like the statutes of Draco, written in the characters of blood. Among other cruel enactments, insolvent debtors were punished with the greatest severity, but the attempt was ineffectual to prevent running in debt. The judicious remarks of Gibbon, on the useless severities inflicted by this law, are applicable to the present times.

"The advocates for this savage law, have insisted, that it must strongly operate in deterring idleness and fraud, from contracting debts which they were unable to discharge; but experience would dissipate this salutary terror by proving that no creditor could be found to exact this unprofitable penalty of life or limb. As the manners of Rome were insensibly polished the criminal code of the decemvirs was abolished, by the humanity of accusers, witnesses and judges; and impunity became the consequence of immoderate rigour."

At page 316, among the public occurrences, will be found a correspondence with Sir Samuel Romilly, on the subject of capital punishments.

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

WESTMINSTER MEETING.

The following resolutions, with an address to Sir Francis Burdett, and a petition and remonstrance to the House of

Commons were agreed on at a meeting held the 17th inst.

Arthur Morris, esq. high bailiff in the chair.

Resolved, That we most highly approve of Sir Francis Burdett's letter to his constituents, the subject being of the utmost importance, and the argument is controvertible.

That Sir Francis Burdett's conduct in calling upon the civil power for the protection of his house against a military force, was dictated by prudence, knowledge of, and confidence in the laws of the country.

That the house of commons be called upon to restore to us our beloved representative, and to co-operate immediately with him in his endeavours to procure a fair representation of the people in parliament.

That the petition now read, be adopted, that it be signed by the high bailiff and twenty-five electors, and delivered to our remaining representative the right honourable lord Cochrane, to be by him presented to the house of commons.

That a letter be addressed to Sir Francis Burdett, expressing our full and entire approbation of the whole and every part of his conduct as a member of parliament.

That the letter now read, be adopted; that it be signed by electors in the name of this meeting, and that the high bailiff be requested to present the same to Sir Francis Burdett.

That the thanks of this meeting be given to our worthy representative the right honourable lord Cochrane, for his support of Sir Francis Burdett, during the present arduous struggle.

That the thanks of this meeting be given to those independent members of the house of commons, who have supported the rights of the people.

That the thanks of this meeting be given to Arthur Morris, esq. high bailiff for his ready compliance with the requisition of the electors, and for his able and impartial conduct in the chair.

To the honourable the Commons of the United kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in parliament assembled.

The petition and remonstrance of the inhabitant householders, electors of the city and liberties of Westminster, assembled in New Palace yard, the 17th day of April, 1810, by the appointment of Arthur Morris, esq. high bailiff, in pursuance of a requisition for that purpose.

We, the inhabitant householders, electors of the city and liberties of Westminster, feel most sensibly the indignity offered to this city, in the person of our beloved representative whose letter to us has fallen under the censure of your house.

able house, but which, so far from erring that censure, ought in our opinion to have led your honourable house to reconsider the subject which he had so far, legally, and constitutionally discussed.

We are convinced that no one ought to be prosecutor and juror, judge or executioner in his own cause, much less to accumulate, and exercise all those powers in his own person.

We are also convinced, that the refusal of your honourable house to inquire into the conduct of Lord Castlereagh and Perceval (then two of his majesty's ministers) when distinctly charged with sale of a seat in your honourable house, evidence of which was offered at the bar by a member of your honourable house; and the avowal in your honourable house, "that such practices were as common as the sun at noon day;" practised at the bare mention of which the speaker of your honourable house declared, "that our ancestors would have led with indignation." And the counsel of Sir Francis Burdett to prison, and to be surrounded by military power, are circumstances which render evident the immediate necessity of an immediate reform in the representation of the people.

We therefore, most earnestly call upon your honourable house to restore to us our representative, and according to the course he has given, to take the state of the representation of the people into serious consideration, a reform in which, in our opinion, the only means of preserving the country from military despotism.

The resolutions being agreed to, the following letter to Sir Francis Burdett, was read and agreed to.

"We nominated you to be our representative without your knowledge, and elected you without your interference. We are confident that you would perform the duties of a representative in part with ability and fidelity. In every respect you have not only fulfilled, but exceeded our expectations. We derive the utmost satisfaction from having pointed out to the nation the way to be represented. Had it been possible to have followed proper representation thereby produced, the scenes we have lately witnessed would not have disgraced our country.

We understood the nobleness of your mind and were confident that you would not tend to barter your trust for a place in government, nor be the partisan or ally of those who support or reject measures as they happen to be proposed on that side of the house.

We feel the indignity that has been offered you, but we are not surprised to

public delinquents, that the utmost rigour is exercised against him who pleads for the ancient and constitutional rights of the people.

You nobly stepped forward in defence of a fellow subject unjustly imprisoned, and you questioned with great ability and knowledge of the laws, the warrant issued upon that occasion; the house of commons have answered your argument by breaking into your house with a military force, seizing your person, and conveying you by a large body of troops to the tower.

Your distinction between privilege and power remains unaltered; the privileges of the house of commons are for the protection, not for the destruction of the people.

We have resolved to remonstrate with the house of commons on the outrages committed under their orders, and to call upon them to restore you to your seat in parliament, which the present state of the country renders more than ever necessary for the furtherance of your and our object, a reform of the representation in that house.

While so many members are collected together by means "which it is not necessary for us to describe," we cannot but entertain the greatest apprehensions for the remainder of our liberties; and the employment of a military force against one of their own body, is but a sad presage of what may be expected by those who like you have the courage to stand forward in defence of the rights of the people.

When we reflect on your generous exertions to destroy the horrors of secret and solitary confinement; to mitigate the severity of punishment in the army; to prevent the cashiering of its officers without cause assigned; to restore for the comfort of the worn out soldier, the public property conveyed by a job to a private individual; to prevent the extension of the barrack system, the obvious effect of which is to separate the soldier from the citizen; to prevent the introduction of foreign troops; to bring to light an atrocious act of tyranny, by which a British sailor was left to perish on a barren rock; and above all, your unremitting exertions to obtain a full, fair, and free representation of the people in parliament; when we reflect on the firmness, the unshaken constancy which you have invariably shown "in evil report and good report," we are eager to express the sentiments of gratitude and attachment to you, with which we are impressed, and we are convinced that those sentiments are not only felt by the inhabitants of this city, but by every person throughout the land who is not interested in the continuance of public abuses. (Signed, &c. &c.)

BETTER FROM SIR FRANCIS BURDETT, TO HIS
CONSTITUENTS, THE ELECTORS OF WEST-
MINSTER.

Tower, April 20, 1810.

Sir Francis Burdett presents his respectful compliments to the High Bailiff of Westminster, and transmits to him his answer to the letter of the Electors of that city, which he did him the honour to present to him this morning.
Arthur Morris, esq. High Bailiff for the City and Liberties of Westminster.

GENTLEMEN,

Tower, April 20, 1810.

If any thing could increase or confirm the constant resolution of my life, never to betray the confidence you have placed in me, it is the kindness and affection which your letter of the 17th instant testifies to me, and the wisdom and propriety of your conduct at the late meeting. A scrupulous adherence to the common law of this land, and the wise provisions of the ancient statutes, declaratory of that law, which together form what I understand by the Constitution, raised our country to an unexampled height of happiness and prosperity; and in an exact proportion to the invasion and neglect of them, has the country declined.

In defence of these laws, and this constitution, I amle at any privation, to which, personally, I may be subjected, thinking, as I do, that life cannot so well, and so happily, because it cannot be so honourably and usefully expended, as in defence of this our best inheritance, and in the maintenance of the good old cause, for which Hampden died in the field and Sidney and Russell on the scaffold.

Laws, to be entitled to respect and willing obedience, must be pure—must come from a pure source—that is, from common consent, and through an uncorrupt channel—that is an house of commons freely elected by the people. Moreover, they who pay the reckoning ought to examine and controul the account; and the only controul the people can have, is by a fair representation in parliament. The necessity of obtaining this check by a constitutional reform is now acknowledged by all, except those, who, contrary to law, have possessed themselves of a property in the house of commons, by whom this land, this England—

—this dear land,

Dear, for her reputation through the world,

Is now leas'd out—

Like to a tenement, or pelted farm;
England, bound in with the triumphant
Whose rocky shore beats back the envious
Of watery Neptune, is now bound up
With inky blots and rotten parchment
From this foul and trafficked
rough monger sovereigns derive an im-
value, rudely wrung from the hard ba-
nest labour. I do, however, own enter-
dent hope, that this degraded and degra-
tem, to which all our difficulties, griev-
dangers are owing, will at length give a
moderate but determined perseverance of
united people.

Magna Charta, and the old law of the
then re-sume their empire—freedom will
the caterpillars of the state, colling them
in their own naturally narrow sphere, will
and perim—property and political power
the law never separates, will be re-
King, replaced in the happy and dignified
allotted him by the constitution—the pe-
lived from the bitterness of all curses,
of Canaan—that of being the servants of
and restored to their just and indisput-
To effect these great, important, and
purposes, no exertions of mine shall ever
ing; without their attainment, no efforts
can avail.

The people of England must speak or
must do more—they must act; and, if
the example of the electors of Westminster
do act, in a firm and regular manner, upon
certified plan—ever keeping the law and
tion in view—they must finally succeed in
ering that to which they are legally entit-
appointment of their own guardians and
for the protection of their own liberty
erty. They must either do this, or the
inevitably fall a sacrifice to one or of
the most contemptible factions that ever
ed this or any other country.

The question is now at issue; it must
ultimately determined, whether we are
to be slaves, or to be free. Hold to this
this great country may recover; forsake
and it will certainly perish.

I am, gentlemen, your most obedient
servant,
FRANCIS BURDETT
To the Electors of Westminster.

* Paltry, mean—Johnson.

† Shakespeare, Richard II. act 2, scene 1.

DOMESTIC OCCURRENCES.

GARRICKFERGUS ASSIZES.

Wednesday, March the 21st. the court
proceeded to the trial of *Daniel Stewart*,
David Montgomery, and *John Chambers*, ac-
cused of the murder of *Alexander M'Cul-
lough*, near Toome, county Antrim, on
the night of the ninth of November last.

Peter Aiken, esq. said he is coroner, and
was called on last November to hold an
inquest on the body of *Alexander M'Cul-
lough*, of Breckart, near Toome. He did
so, and found the body so covered with
wounds, that he could scarcely look on it
being so shocking. These wounds he has
no doubt occasioned the death of *M'Cul-
lough*.

John O'Neil said, he remembers the
night of the ninth of november, which was
that of the murder of *Alexander M'Cul-
lough*. Three days before it took place,
Montgomery, *Chambers*, and *Stewart* cal-
led on him, and they then fixed the night

of the robbery. They said they be-
looking at the house that day, and
they could easily rob it themselves,
as they had mentioned it to him
wished him to be the same—that they
not bid him go to the inside, as he
family knew him, and he should not
shme of what was got. On the
night after this, the party met at
in a moss near Toome, between
nine at night. That was the night
upon for the robbery. When
moss, *Montgomery* proposed to
Toome to buy spirits, and turned
him a note to pay for them. He
and when he returned brought some
They remained in the moss for
half an hour, and then they pro-
towards *M'Culloch's* house. When
came to the foot of his garden they
ceived light in the house, by which
found the family had not gone to

bed. They stopped three quarters of an hour longer, and then went to the back of the house, and as they saw no light they believed the family had gone to bed. They then forced off one of the back windows, which was made of lead, and four of them went into the house; David Montgomery, and Andrew Turner had bayonets with them. He, the witness, remained for some short time at the back of the house, and then went to the front. He did not chuse to go in, because the family knew him, and he knew them. When he went round to a front window, he looked through, and perceived they had a light in the room, and observed Montgomery and Turner engaged with M'Cullough, who was on the floor in his shirt. They stabbed him once or twice with bayonets. Saw M'Culloch's son making endeavours to assist his father, Old M'Culloch being too powerful for Turner and Montgomery, and having forced Montgomery down on his knees, Stewart, who was in the house, came to their aid, and at last they overcame M'Culloch, and tied him with a cord. When lying on the floor, Turner stabbed M'Culloch two or three times, and said, you old rogue, tell where your money is. Witness became so shocked with their proceedings, that he went to the door and shook it, and cried that a guard was coming. He did this to endeavour to take them off the old man. Stewart then came to the door, and told witness that they had killed him. They had been about three hours in the house. When they left it they returned to Toome, where witness left them and went home. They went along Toome bridge. Chambers and Stewart lived at Coran, near Castledawson, and Montgomery lived near Maghera.

Cross examined.—Q. You say you would not take any of the property, why would you not take it?—A. Because I was afraid it might be found about me and lead to a discovery.

Q. What then did you go there for?—A. It was to get money that I went, and I did not think that when they went to rob, they would have murdered the man, and I was so shocked at it when I went home that my conscience would give me no rest day nor night. I never thought it would have fallen out murder.

Q. Now, sir, you knew that they had bayonets and pistols, how then do you say they did not intend to murder him?—A. I thought they only intended to fight if they were resisted.

Q. Well, sir, did not that happen as you expected?—A. I did not expect they would have murdered him, because they took a cord with them for the purpose of tying him.

Q. How did your conscience prevent you from information concerning this which appeared so shocking?—It bore

two ways; it was shocking for me to speak of it, and I was afraid to do so from the scandal that was attached to it.

Q. Why was you taken up?—A. I was taken up on a charge for horse-stealing, and gave information of this robbery the same night to Mr. Shiells, of Castledawson.

Alexander M'Cullough said, he is son of the deceased A. M'Cullough, of Breckart, and was in his father's house in the night of the 9th Nov. last. He went to bed before his father, and thinks it was not ten o'clock. His father slept in the same room, in another bed, with his younger brother, who is about 10. The other brother, about 15, slept with witness. He was soon awakened by the shouts of his brothers, and when he started up he saw his father and a man struggling, and there was another man had a light in the room. His father was in his shirt. Witness ran forward to assist his father, but a third person knocked him down, when within two yards of his father, who was on the floor. Andrew Turner had a bayonet in his hand. After witness was knocked down he crept under the bed. He then went to get out of the room, but one of them gave him a kick on his breast, and forced him into the bed, and another man stood on his breast and forced him to cover his head with the clothes. One of the men asked his father for his money, but he did not then hear his father speak, another of them said, give him two or three stabs more.—Heard his father say, "I must give it up, gentlemen, I can stand it no longer." There was a desk in the room, with some silver in it, and a bladder, as a purse, in which was some gold. They went backward and forward through the house. Both of his younger brothers were stabbed in different parts of the body, and the servant maid was also stabbed. His father died before the party left the house. It was a month before witness recovered. He had received twenty two wounds. There were two windows taken off from the back of the house. The gang remained about two hours in the house. Witness's father was reputed to be a rich man. The family all knew O'Neil, the preceding witness.

Jane Davidson said, she was servant in the family of Alexander M'Cullough on the night of the 9th Nov. &c. &c.—went to bed between nine and ten o'clock, and was awakened by the cries of the children, who slept in the same room with their father, and then she went to the room where he lay, and heard strange tongues, and then she saw a man standing by the door waving his hand in a threatening attitude to compel the children to be quiet, as they were then crying.—(This man she pointed out in the court to be Montgomery.) Several articles were stolen out of the house, and a

quilt now produced in court she proved was the one that was on M'Culloch's bed. After she saw so many men in Mr. M'Culloch's room, she became afraid, and went to get out of the house; but on going to the door she found the key was gone, and therefore ran to her bed as the only place of refuge. She was at one time knocked down.

Mr. John Vance, merchant, Belfast, said the quilt now in court he got about three weeks ago. He obtained it in consequence of a warrant from Mr. Shiells of Castledawson, to apprehend Chambers, whom he accordingly apprehended in one of the streets of Belfast, and in his lodgings, at the house of a cabinet-maker in North-street, Belfast, which Chambers refused to point out, but which witness afterwards with some difficulty discovered, he found four quilts on the bed, and among them the one now produced, which Jane Davidson had declared had been stolen from Mr. M'Culloch's house.

Patrick M'Nicol said, he remembers, on the night of the robbery he was in a public-house kept by Mr. Mann, at Toome. At nine o'clock at night, Montgomery came there for whiskey. He had a bottle with him, and asked for a quart of it, and offered a 30s. note to be changed. He then put up the note in a pocket-book, saying *this is bad luck for my side*. Witness afterwards saw him in custody at Castledawson, before Mr. Shiells the magistrate, where he also saw the pocket book.

Robert Pettigrew said, he knows Montgomery, and saw him in custody at Castledawson, when, by desire of Mr. Shiells, he went and asked Montgomery for his pocket-book, which he said he had left at home, upon which witness searched him (he was then handcuffed) and upon searching he acknowledged he had it, and gave it up.

Bernard Nolan said, he knows Alex. Mann, in Toome, and was in his house on the night of M'Culloch's robbery. Montgomery came in between nine and ten o'clock and asked for a quart of spirits, and offered a 30s. note, but as he could not get change, he put it up in a pocket-book and went away on the road to M'Culloch's. He returned again soon after and looked into the house, but again went away, and then returned again and asked for a loaf. He got a sixpenny loaf, on which he swore a great oath, and said he could get a larger one for five-pence. He threw down a tenpenny-piece and went out, the shopman bade him stop for change. He answered, I'm not going to leave it with you, and he came in again and got it.

Henry Hegan said, he lives at Toome-bridge, and takes care of the gate of the bridge—recollects being raised from his bed between four and five in the morning of 16th Nov. when five men came along the bridge from the county Antrim—they

all paid toll—one of them stopped at the door to get some whiskey—he had something like a knapsack on his back. It was a very dark night as ever witness saw.

John Gainer said, he knows Chambers one of the prisoners, who lived near Magherafelt, and on the morning of the robbery he met Chambers on the road about sun-rise.—He had a bundle under his right arm, it was tied in some white cloth; he appeared dirty and fatigued, Chambers has not lived in that country since.

Henry Shiells, esq. said he knows Stewart and Montgomery, two of the prisoners, and brought them to this jail.

By the council for the crown—Mr. Shiells, be so good as inform the court what conversation you had with any of the prisoners, and what they informed you of when on the road.

Witness.—I should think it might be hard toward him to compel me to tell.

Court.—You are not to say what is hard or what is not. It is your duty to state in your evidence the facts you know and are called for, and the court will judge of its legality.

Witness.—When bringing Stewart from county Derry, we had occasion to stop, and some conversation occurred while a sergeant of dragoons was present. Stewart was a long time before he would speak any thing—I said I wished he was transported.

Counsel for prisoners.—When you said to him you wished he was transported, did you say it in such a manner as to make him believe, that if he gave you information you might get him to be transported.

Witness.—No, he could not think so, for I said no more than merely that I wished it were so.—Stewart then said that he was present with other three persons when the business was arranged. They drank some whiskey where they were met. He a long time refused to be concerned in it, but after he had drank the whiskey, one of these three succeeded in persuading him to promise to engage in it. In the evening of the robbery they met in a field near M'Culloch's house; he said he was against the murder, the blame of which he charged against one of the party not now on his trial. He then desired him, the witness, to ask M'Culloch's children, and they would tell him that he was the person who saved their father's house from being burnt, when the others wanted to do so, and witness is satisfied that it certainly was Stewart who saved the house.

Alex. M'Culloch was again called up, and being asked by the court, said that one of the robbers insisted to burn the house and the papers, but another spoke against it, and said that the papers might be of use to the family.

John Wilkinson said, he had acted as a juror on the coroner's inquest held on

McColloch's body; there were a great number of wounds in it; scarcely a part of the body that was not wounded. Some persons attempted counting them but failed, they were so numerous. The body was lying on the bed, and a cord tied round one of the legs at the ankle, and bound to the opposite knee.

EVIDENCE FOR THE PRISONERS.

James Watts, a prisoner for debt, said he knows O'Neil, one of the witnesses on this trial, has heard him say in the prison, that he would give information to save himself. He said so this morning. Witness advised him not to hang any of them if he could help it, but he said he would save himself.

Q. Why did you advise him not to give evidence against them?—A. Because I thought it a pity to hang so many for one; I thought it would be enough if they were transported.

Q. This advice was no doubt given from a pure love of justice?—A. Yes; from a love of justice.

Q. So, sir, you think it consistent with a love of justice, to tamper with the witness for the crown, and endeavour to prevail on them to screen from justice those who are charged with the most atrocious offences. Go off the table, sir, and return to prison. Some persons though not under indictment are well entitled to be transported.

The evidence being closed, the learned judge addressed the jury. His lordship recapitulated the evidence of the witnesses, pointing out the most particular parts of it, and explaining the law in regard to burglaries, murder, &c. With great humanity, he directed the jury, to weigh fairly and impartially the evidence as it had been produced before them, totally unconnected with any popular prejudice that may have existed on the subject, and that they should even divest their minds of any aversion to the prisoners, arising from the natural horror and detestation of the crime with which they are charged; but that they should enter into an investigation of the evidence unbiased by any consideration but a regard to justice.

The jury then retired, and in a few minutes brought in a verdict finding each of the prisoners guilty, both of the murder and burglary.

After a momentary pause, his lordship, in the most solemn and impressive manner, addressed the prisoners to the following effect:

David Montgomery, John Chambers, and Daniel Stewart.—You have been tried and found guilty of the murder of Alexander McColloch, and also for a burglary in his dwelling-house. Of that burglary and of that murder you have been found guilty; a murder the most barbarous and inhuman; for, if it is possible

every circumstance of this deed of horror tends to render it most atrocious. You did concert, and conspire together for the purpose of committing a robbery in the dwelling of this unfortunate man, and you were armed with deadly weapons, in case you should meet with resistance. You knew that though he was old, he was strong and might make resistance, and you carried with you bayonets and pistols, and must have had in contemplation, if he made such resistance, to commit murder, rather than be prevented from accomplishing your plan of robbery. I have not in the course of my experience known a more barbarous and shocking act. You entered the dwelling-house of this helpless man after he had gone to bed, and, while surrounded with his children, you attacked him with bayonets and pistols. He endeavoured to defend himself, but you overpowered him. Even after this, when you had tied and disabled him from making further resistance, you continued to cut and mangle him till his body exhibited one continued wound. It is horrible to think, and strange, that human beings who could act in so dreadful a tragedy, should now clamour for mercy, who showed none to the helpless McColloch. It manifested a spirit of barbarity and inhumanity which I did not indeed think existed in any portion of the inhabitants of this country. It is in vain for you to expect mercy; in this world you can have none. Indeed you yourselves showed no mercy—no compassion to that unfortunate man, when, in the midst of his crying, helpless family, you, before the eyes of the children, shed the blood of the father. You have been guilty of the primal crime, and must meet the punishment that was pronounced on it—that whosoever sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed. (Here Chambers cried bitterly, and entreated for mercy! Mercy, O my lord, have mercy, and give as long a day as possible.) In this world the gates of mercy are shut against you, and even your entreaty for mercy to lengthen your time cannot be granted.—It is impossible.—The law prescribes your day of punishment. Men guilty of such a barbarous, inhuman, and shocking murder, must speedily be sent out of this world; and yet, short as your time is, it is not so short as what you allowed that unfortunate person, whom you so cruelly murdered, and to whom you showed no mercy, although now so clamorous to have mercy extended to yourselves. In the little time that remains to you, prepare to meet your god. (Chambers cried out, O! for Jesus' sake, for Jesus' sake, mercy, mercy! do not send me into eternity—make of me any think you will, but spare my life.)—The curtain of this world has dropped on you. Endeavour to save your souls, your immortal part. As for your bodies, they

the law—a necessary sacrifice to your offended country—in the midst of this accumulated scene of horror and of blood, I feel a glimpse of consolation, that I can make a distinction of one from the others, and which I shall attend to hereafter. It is the case of Stewart, which is somewhat different in its complexion of moral guilt, though not in point of legal criminality. By the evidence of the witness O'Neil, and also that of M'Culloch's son, it appeared that Stewart used his endeavours successfully, in saving the house from being burnt. The contemplation of such an event is shocking to human nature. What an awful calamity must have followed, had that dreadful idea been carried into effect, and this family of young children been consumed with the mangled body of their father. The preventing of such an enormity is certainly some alleviation of Stewart's guilt, and therefore not so much out of regard for him, as from a regard to others in society, whose safety may come into such an awful situation, I am glad that I am enabled to distinguish his case. But as for you, Montgomery and Chambers, there is nothing in the case of either of you to brighten the deepest shade of guilt. The only mercy that I can show to you, is to tell you there is no hope for you. To request of you not to entertain the slightest expectation fit. To impress upon your minds that you must positively and certainly die in pursuance of the awful sentence of the law, which is now my duty to pronounce.

His lordship then appointed them to be hanged on Friday, and their bodies to be afterwards publicly dissected.

During the whole course of the trial Stewart was silent and thoughtful—Chambers manifested less anxiety, and seemed rather indifferent.—Montgomery exhibited a disgusting insensibility, which indicated great depravity of heart. After the verdict, while the judge was addressing them, Stewart appeared greatly impressed, but remained silent.—Chambers was agitated, and continued wringing his hands and imploring for mercy. Montgomery remained unmoved, as if determined to be obdurate; but when his lordship pronounced the sentence of death, which he delivered in the most impressive manner, Montgomery then appeared to feel, his countenance changed, and he stepped two paces back into the dock. He again seemed to summon up his fortitude, and returning to the front, addressed his lordship, requested he might be shot, and repeatedly offered to serve in any part of the world, and to take his brother along with him; a proposition which showed how imperfectly he had contemplated the atrocity of his crime. The prisoners were immediately taken back to jail.

Daniel Stewart was respited, but has been since executed.

The Lord Lieutenant, on the application of the prosecutor, and on reference to the report of the judge, has respited the execution of the sentence of death against James Crone, convicted at last assizes at Carrickfergus, for robbing a bleach-green, on condition of his being transported for life.

The following letters are submitted to the public, more especially to those interested in the preservation of bleach greens, whether of linens or cottons, in hopes of engaging attention to a subject, which it is intended to bring more fully before them previously to next session of parliament, in hopes of obtaining their concurrence to a petition for a change of the law, and substituting a punishment more efficacious than the present.

Under the present system of jails, transportation for life, appears the only adequate punishment at present practicable; but if, with the humane plan of Sir Samuel Romilly, to lessen the black roll of capital offences, an amended system of imprisonment, similar to that adopted in some of the large towns in America was joined, many beneficial consequences might be expected to result.

Copy of a letter to Sir Samuel Romilly.

Lisburn 3d mo. 31st 1810.

Thy benevolent and enlightened plans, for the prevention of crimes, and more effectually to secure adequate punishment by lessening the number of capital offences, have not passed unnoticed in this part of the country; and these sentiments have lately received additional confirmation from a humane declaration of Judge Fox, at the late assizes for this county, who, on application from the prosecutor for his interest to have the sentence changed to transportation for life, on a man who had been capitally convicted of robbing a bleach-green, expressed his wish that the law were changed.

Emboldened by this declaration, and encouraged by thy exertions, some owners of bleach-greens have a plan in agitation to interest their brethren in the linen trade, to petition the legislature, to change the punishment of death to transportation or to a system of imprisonment and hard labour, as a plan calculated to free them from the necessity of prosecuting capitalty, and at the same time, insuring conviction, and the consequent diminution of crimes. In case of such an application, might we look to thee to present the petition, and give thy aid in carrying forward the measure? Would it be advisable to petition immediately, or rather wait to be fully prepared previous to the next session of parliament? I trust to thy excusing this intrusion, and subscribe myself very respectfully,

JOHN HANCOCK.

The following answer was returned,

Lincoln's-Inn, London, April 7, 1810.

SIR—I shall have very great satisfaction in presenting to the house of commons such a petition as you mention on behalf of the owners of bleach greens, for an Act to substitute in the place of death, a less severe, but more effectual punishment for depredations on their property; and I shall be happy to promote to the utmost of my ability so humane and desirable an

object. It will be more advisable, however, to defer presenting such a petition till the next session of parliament, or at least, till the bills which I have brought into the house of commons, to mitigate, in some particulars, the severity of our laws, shall have been passed, or otherwise disposed of.

I am, sir, your most obedient and faithful servant,
SAMUEL ROMILLY.

COMMERCIAL REPORT.

Tax disputes with America, are not terminated, and it is difficult to conjecture what may be their termination. The Americans appear to wait with rather a hostile aspect for despatches from their ambassadors at London and Paris, to see which power will bid highest for their commercial intercourse. The well known sagacity of Bonaparte, has probably induced him to offer considerable concessions, and the English papers assert that the Marquis of Wellesley, and the American ambassador, have agreed on a pacific arrangement. The John Adams, by which vessel, the dispatches from Europe were forwarded, may probably have arrived in America about this time, and in the course of the ensuing month, we may, it is probable, learn the determination of their government. In the mean time, speculation is baffled, and our merchants are at a loss how to act, as not knowing what the wheel of fortune may present; for since the destructive energies of war have been directed against trade, and a commercial warfare has commenced, trade is out of joint, and instead of its equitable and peaceful course, presents little but fluctuation, and almost all the uncertainties of gambling.

Bankruptcies continue to spread; they are in a great degree, the effect of this commercial gambling, which induces many to grasp at the precarious profits of hazardous undertakings, and endanger the real comforts attending a moderate unambitious competency. These shocks frequently occur in the commercial world, and act periodically as correctives to the over-driven commerce of these countries, and at the recurrence of every few years, check the too widely extended, and all-grasping spirit of accumulation. The state of public affairs also has a share in producing these disappointments, and the blunders of statesmen, have a conjoint operation with the errors of merchants. The times present gloomy prospects on every side, whether we look at the private failures in trade, or at the ruinous system of public finance, ministers being scarcely able, or rather scarcely daring to add much to the present most oppressive load of taxation, yet still continuing a most improvident expenditure in unsuccessful expeditions, and in all the wasting expense attending a most extensive system of corruption, and mismanagement.

The linen and cotton trades are in a state of great depression, with this difference, that in the former, the goods have been laid in on very high terms, and in the latter, they are very low, so much so as to rival the fabrics of linen, by their low prices, and induce many to substitute them for the use of linen. As a substitute they may look pretty well for a time, but in the end as wanting in durability, they will not be found more economical.

Large quantities of foreign flax are daily arriving.

The attempts to raise flax-seed last year, have in many instances proved unsuccessful, and the seed saved of very inferior quality, and in some instances the flax has been injured by the attempts to save the seed. The very wet weather in 1808 and 1809 at the season of pulling the flax, is alleged as the cause. The weather may not always prove so unfavourable, but when the recurrence of such circumstances may be often expected, a doubt may be reasonably entertained, whether the probability of success, will counterbalance the risque of loss. Yet we would not discourage further experiments.

The supply of flax-seed is rather scanty, and we fear will be found inadequate to the demand, unless considerable arrivals come in during the short period, which yet remains of the sowing season. It appears on inquiry, that most of the flax-seed which arrived in London from the Baltic, of which the large quantity coming into that port was noticed in a former report, is unfit for the purposes of sowing, and is imported for crushing, being generally either of an inferior quality, or being old, has been badly kept. The sample of the introduction of it last year into this country, and the distressing effects arising from the loss of crops, give no encouragement to repeat the ill-judged experiment of the linen board.

At the conclusion of this report will be found two tables extracted from the pamphlet of Sir Philip Francis, reviewed in our last number. The first shows the large importation of grain from France and its dependencies. The magnitude of the importation into one port discovers the vast extent of the English market for grain, and

might dissipate the fears of those who were alarmed for the want of a market for our grain, and in order to secure it, were anxious to promote the ruinous manufacture of whiskey. If illicit distillation had been stopped, and surely such a measure was practicable by the powers of government, England presented an ample market for our superfluous produce. But the fact is, that our landed men encouraged illicit distillation. Regardless of the morals of the country, they resolved to keep up their rents by distillation, either legal or illicit; and both modes are extremely prejudicial to the morals of the country.

In the next table will be seen the present state of our enormous national debt, and the vast quantity of paper in circulation, with some judicious remarks of the author on the subject. It is alarming to contemplate the subject, but though various circumstances arising from the increase of trade, and perhaps especially from the cheapening of our manufactures through the introduction of machinery, have delayed the crisis so long ago predicted, yet surely the system of borrowing, and the extension of paper must at some period have a termination.

A few new guineas have lately been issued in the payment of the fleet; not many of them are likely to reach us, nor is the quantity probably so abundant, as to be of much service any where. A complaint had been made that the expedition to Walcheren had been delayed from an inability to procure specie, and government now appears desirous of making a show of exhibiting a few guineas.

Exchange of bills on London, for bank-notes, rated on the 'Change of Belfast at 8½ to 8¾ per cent and latterly rose to 9 per cent, and for guineas at about 6½ to 7 per cent. The discount on bank notes is about 2 per cent, and between Dublin bills at 61 days sight, and bank note, 1 per cent.

From Sir Philip Francis' Reflections on the abundance of paper in circulation, and the scarcity of specie.

"Return of the importation of wheat and oats into London alone, from the 1st of August, 1809, to 31st January, 1810, from foreign countries.

	2rs. Wheat.	2rs. Oats.
In August,	3,010	13,100
September,	5,700	6,100
October,	19,000	19,900
November,	48,900	22,000
December,	26,000	3,400
	102,610	59,500
1810, In January, .	145,000	36,700
	247,610	96,200

Value of 247,610 quarters wheat at 100 per,	£1,238,050
Value of 96,200 quarters oats, at 30 per,	144,300
	£1,382,350

Which sum of £1,382,350 has been paid to the enemy of our country, chiefly in specie, besides yielding a revenue to Buonaparte as follows.

Duty payable on exportation, 247,600 quarters Wheat at 12	£148,566
Duty payable on exportation, 96,200 quarters oats, at 12	57,200
	£205,766

1. National funded debt of Great Britain,	£784,552,142
2. Unfunded ditto,	49,634,948
3. Notes issued by the Bank of England,	21,406,930
4. Notes of private bankers,	84,000,000
5. India bonds in circulation,	4,869,992
IRELAND.	
6. Funded debt in January, 1810,	81,510,856
7. Unfunded ditto, exclusive of the capital of sundry annuities, for the lives and terms, which I cannot ascertain,	684,809
8. Notes issued by the Irish bank on the 1st of February 1809,	3,072,316
9. Notes issued by private bankers, computed on the principle of Ricardo's calculation,	12,000,000

Total £1,041,732,193

In this account the only disputable article is the amount of notes, issued by private bankers, taken on a general computation, which it is impossible to ascertain.

This stupendous edifice of credit, is at once an object of terror and astonishment. At a

tion or indifference, but not so when the danger approximates, or the sense of it is real. A deep and uniform impression on a constant mind, or even on a timid imagination, cannot be wholly against reason. This pile of paper is too near us to be seen through a false medium, or to be contemplated without fear. I am not gifted with faculties to compare it to any thing but a wonderful house of cards, of which the materials are light enough to be blown away, or to suit to pieces at any moment, but heavy enough to crush this kingdom in their fall."

NATURALIST'S REPORT,

From March 20, till April 20.

Distinguish'd much by reason, and still more,
By our capacity of grace, divine,
From creatures

Superior as we are, they yet depend.
Not more on human help, than we on their's,
Their strength, or speed, or vigilance, were giv'd
In aid of our defects. In some are found
Such teachable, and apprehensive parts,
That man's attainments in his own concerns,
Match'd with th' expertness of the brutes in theirs,
Are oftentimes vanquish'd and thrown far behind.

COWPER.

To the observer of nature alone, is the connection between man and his less gifted associates conspicuous, from their propensities, he is deriving continual benefit, yet how wantonly and foolishly does he aim at their destruction, and some there are, so deaf to the most enchanting of all music, that they wage eternal war, in order to preserve a mouthful of fruit or a few grains of corn, and year after year, untaught by the destruction, from caterpillars, snails, and other insects, which their gardens and fields present, continue to persecute with unrelenting cruelty their best friends, destroying their nests, and often separating the happy partners, united by the most disinterested affection. It might be thought unnecessary to plead in behalf of an innocent race, who if they do not enter our habitations, seeming confident of our hospitality, build their admirable structures closely adjoining, structures, which to inquiring minds exhibit admirable proofs of that Almighty power, which governs the universe, and guides even the wren, in the construction of its curious fabric. From man's officiousness to interfere with the œconomy of nature, the chain is often broken, but a link, is never lost without detriment, and suffering multitudes have often lamented, when too late, the loss of a single species of bird. How many insects would lie to destroy the springing plants, and torment us even in our houses, if the common swallow did not come for a single season, and how much would snails and caterpillars, increase their numbers, were the thrush, the blackbird, and the common sparrow extirpated. As this therefore is the season when birds claim that protection which their services deserve, it is hoped that this attempt to claim for innocence and beauty a peaceful retreat will be successful in rousing some benevolent minds to active exertions in their favour.

March 21 Double Daffodil (*Narcissus*)

22, Sweet scented Violet (*Viola odorata*) in full flower.

27, This day the Common Lark (*Alauda arvensis*) which had been silent during the preceding bad weather and cold days was again singing.

28, Blue Wood Anemone (*Anemona Appenina*) flowering.

30, Radwing (*Turdus Iliacus*) not migrated yet.

April 1, Bulbous Fumatory (*Fumaria bulbosa*) flowering.

2, Grape Hyacinthus (*Hyacinthus Botryoides*) flowering.

8, Barren Strawberry (*Fragaria sterilis*) flowering.

19, Starch scented Hyacinth (*Hyacinthus racemosus*) and Great Yellow Jonquil (*Narcissus Calathinus*) flowering. Fieldfares (*Turdus pilaris*) not yet migrated.

13, Alpine Cress (*Arabis Alpina*) flowering.

14, Wood Sorrel (*Oxalis Acetosella*) flowering Willow Wren (*Sylvia Trochilus*) come and singing. This bird was not observed until the 22d last season.

18, Scentless Violet (*Viola Canina*) flowering.

20, Snowy Medlar (*Mespilus Canadensis*) flowering.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT,

From March 20, till April 20.

REMARKABLE as the present period has been for moisture, it has not been on the whole such disagreeable weather as characterized the same time last season, at that time there was often hail showers, and the mountain tops were several times white, this season although wet, has not been cold, and vegetation has been little if any thing retarded and we may have our May-poles as early as usual.

March 21, 26,	Dry cool days.
27,	Very wet.
28, 30,	Pleasant dry days.
31,	Wet.
April 1,	Misty, rain.
2,	Wet.
3,	Showery.
4,	Hail.
5, 6,	Heavy rain during these nights.
7,	Dry.
8, 9,	Showery.
10, 12,	Dry cold days.
13,	Dry pleasant.
15, 16,	Rain at night.
18,	Rain.
19,	Pleasant dry day.

The Barometer has shown very little variation from 28.5 inches, 5-tenths.

The Thermometer was in the morning of the 21d March at 35 degrees, and on the 15th of April at 49, so that upon the whole a Spring temperature has prevailed.

CELESTIAL PHENOMENA.

FOR MAY 1840.

On the 3d of this month we have a new Moon, but without an eclipse, the Moon being at this time too far from the node to produce one.

10. The Moon is seen, at their first appearance, under the stars called the first of the Crab, one of which, namely, the first suffers an occultation. This takes place at 9½ minutes past 9, the star being 7' south of the Moon's centre, and at 11½ minutes past 10, the star re-appears, being then 5½ minutes south of her centre, of course she passes near to the second, first, and she is nearest to this star, at 7 minutes past 10 — If the evening be fine our attention will be deservedly called to this object, which would be very beautiful, if the stars were of the first magnitude. At 9 she is 70° 55' from the first of the Virgin.

15. She passes the meridian at 22 minutes past 9 p.m. being under the 4th and 5th of the Virgin. The 3d, 7th, and 2d, of this constellation; the remaining three of the five stars in the Triangle being to the west of her; the first of the Virgin is below her to the east. At 9 she is 45° 49' from the first of the Lion, and 55° 52' from Antares.

20. She rises after Saturn, and may be seen at some distance from this planet, and the two first stars of the Scorpion, at 9 she is 70° 14' from Fomalhaut, and 63° 59' from Spica in the Virgin. *

25. The Moon rises in the morning at 4 minutes past 1, under the second star of the Water Bearer.

30. The Moon rises in the morning at 7 minutes past 3, passes the meridian at 5½ minutes past 9, and sets at 25 minutes past 5 p.m. at 9 she is 62° 47' from Fomalhaut.

Mercury is an evening star, during the whole of this month; at first too near the Sun to be seen, but his duration above the horizon after Sun-set increases very fast. On the 13th we shall see him near the horizon, above Venus; the two planets being above the Pleiades and the Hyades with Aldebaran. The Moon passes him on the 4th.

Venus is an Evening star during the whole of this month, her duration above the horizon after Sun-set continually increasing. She will be seen at first about half an hour after Sun-set; her motion is direct through about 38° beginning at a point under the Pleiades and ending in a point above the 7th Star of the Twins. The Moon passes her on the 4th.

Mars is an Evening star this month, but so near the Sun, that after the beginning of the month he will not be noticed by any but the keen observer, to the north of west-north-west, near the horizon. The Moon passes him on the 4th.

Jupiter is a morning star, too near the Sun to be visible in the early part of the month, but in the latter part of it, he will be the bright harbinger of day, having above him to the west the three first stars of the Ram. The Moon passes him on the 3d.

Saturn is on the meridian on the 1st, at 22 minutes past 2 in the morning and on the 19th, at 8 minutes past 1. The night is therefore very favourable for observations on this planet as at midnight he will be in the part of the heavens opposite to the Sun. The Moon passes him on the 20th.

Herschell is on the meridian at 50 minutes before 1 on the morning of the 1st, and at three quarters past 10 at night on the 21st. The Moon passes him on the 17th.

ERRATA IN NUMBER XX.

Page 198, col. 2nd; first line from the top of l. — page for magnetic read majestic....Page 198, col. 2nd, line from the bottom of the page, for develop read envelope.
 UMFRER XXI....Page 279, col. 1st. 7th line from the bottom of the page, for retributions read contributions.

BELFAST MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

No. 22.]

MAY 31, 1810.

[Vol. 4.]

COMMUNICATIONS, ORIGINAL AND SELECTED.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON THE WRITINGS COMMONLY DISSEMINATED AMONG THE POPULACE, AND THE MOST ELIGIBLE MEANS OF COUNTERACTING THEIR INFLUENCE.

THE ignorance and misery of a large portion of the people of Ireland, have stimulated patriotism to make great exertions for the melioration of their condition; and in the middle ranks their exertions have not been entirely fruitless. But that class which an aristocrat would denominate the *swinish multitude*, or the dregs of the people, has been deemed too inconsiderable to deserve much attention. When the wise man deigned to admonish them, it was in language so much above their comprehension, that he seemed rather desirous of displaying his own understanding, than of enlightening theirs; and the great man has been rigorous in punishing the disorders, that by sedulous care he could have prevented. Content to see the principal workmen safe, they were too proud to warn the abandoned underlings to escape from the tottering edifice.

The stupid, sensual scribbler, however, by lowering his lucubrations to their rude capacity, or rather by not being able to elevate his lucubrations above them, has been as successful as he was industrious in corrupting them. In every market and fair of our country villages, some itinerant musician belinks out a panegyric on debauchery, riot, and splendid ruin; and scals the destructive doggerel as fast as he can hand it out. The gaping bumpkin shrugs, and laughs, and having waited to learn the tune, hums it along the path, which the Grub-street muse, for want of flowers, has strewed with weeds; the perilous path, that leads him to some of the

BELFAST MAG. NO. XXII.

"styes which law has licensed;" where, obedient to his anonymous monitor, he inhales as many potations as his whole pig's price will purchase, swears his hostess out of half a pint, and wrecks some churl's windows, as, "gloriously drunk," he rages home. If his wife or mother presume next morning, to lecture a little on industry, sobriety, and such antiquated topics, he pulls out the cheap apology for licentiousness, which they must know is now become fashionable, and half spells, half sings her to silence, or kicks her out of doors, if he can find a verse that will authorize him so to do. When, "changing these notes to tragic," the beldaine chants the notable achievements of some admirable youth, who commenced his career with swindling, proceeded to felony, was found guilty of burglary and murder, disdained the benefit of clergy, and died hard on the gallows; what can be expected, but that the bullies will attack the dastards, to imitate his prowess; and the sharpers pick the simpletons' pockets, ere they leave the crowd, to equal his dexterity? Every untuneable voice calls on the sweet singer, for "Larry's last farewell;" every child is caressed, who can lisped a line or two of it; and the baleful ballad decoys over more proselytes to profligacy in one week, than the parson of the parish has reclaimed from it in his whole life.

The striplings whose ears are barred against the energetic notes of an "excellent new song," the blessed biographic sketch of 24 pages does not find so unsusceptible; and their father, though he would willingly teach them their duty if he knew it, inadvertently encourages them to imbibe pernicious principles. As soon as the hawk's basket is set down,

R F

If he have as much money as will purchase whatever worthless work they happen to fancy, it is cheerfully granted, happy in the hope, that while they seek amusement only, they will be ensnared into the art of reading. The means are blameable, as the end is praise worthy. Some knowledge of the rudiments of education they do thus acquire; but, at the same time they become acquainted with the deep arts of villainy, which they would have been a thousand times happier never to have been able to read; than to have learned. It is not improbable, that owing to the imperceptible power of first impressions, *Robin Hood* has given many a boy's mind a disorderly cast, that all his future improvements were not able wholly to eradicate: that *Captain James Hind*, the chief robber of England, has caused the mail-coach to be frequently plundered in the present times, and that *Redmond O'Hanlon*, the ring-leader of the Irish rogues, has got numbers of his countrymen marked as criminals on the red calendar, who, but for him would, as good-men and true, have been sworn jurors, at the ensuing assizes.

But what antidote, that has not already been applied, would I oppose to the embosomed poison?—Have not religious missionaries traversed our uncivilized countries? Have not pastoral addresses been circulated by bishops and synods? And have not the scriptures of truth been gratuitously disseminated? They have, indeed; but unfortunately many who suffer under the most inveterate moral maladies, are below the reach of such prescriptions; and the rest like children who nauseate the bitter cup, call for correctives more agreeable to their taste.

The populace must be reclaimed by means rude and simple as those that perverted them, and to render such means efficacious, the reformer must begin by shaming to silence the incendiary who would inflame their follies; let then the Printer, nobly disdaining every paltry emolument, gained at the expense of virtue, decency, and even common sense, indignantly spurn the Postmaster

who presents him his pernicious rhapsody, and immediately suppress it: and let him publish with as little profit as he can, the encomium of the grateful sailor, who magnanimously remitted his pay and prize-money to the far-fallen benefactor that released him from all the evils of orphanage; or who, like the compassionate *Rushron*, hazarded his health, and lost it, by attending the sick, suffering captives, when they had no other earthly friend. Let the elegy of the hero who perished attempting to rescue shipwrecked foreigners from the waves, or in opposing the banditti, who were bearing off his neighbour's property, be purchased by such as even despise the rudeness of the composition, and distributed among the boys in the neighbourhood, as rewards of minor merit: and let the country school-master, whose judgment every child holds infallible, recommend the halfpenny-worth of amusing morality whenever he sees the sympathetic circle gather round it; and applied or censure his pupils, as they emulate its characters, or act unlike them.

If a society of genuine philanthropists would establish a "cheap repository" in this country, like the one in London, the voluntary contributions of the opulent and liberal-minded, would certainly enable them to dispose of numberless valuable little tracts, at an extremely moderate price; and they would as certainly find writers well disposed enough to compose for them without expecting to profit by their labour. Such stories as "Sam the obliging errand boy" "Billy the honest gold finder," and "Pat the merciful carman," written in an easy, intelligible, and entertaining manner, by interesting the imagination would powerfully impress the heart; and though they might fail to reform many of the vicious habits of the confirmed profligate, they would prevent thousands of the juvenile readers from contracting them, as the flame that cannot be suppressed, by proper management, may be kept from communicating itself to the adjacent buildings.

Balgarry.

CENSOR.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON PROVIDING BETTER BEDDING FOR
THE POOR.

THE comforts of the poor have been latterly so largely insisted upon, so many volumes have been written of exhortation to the rich, and of advice to the needy, that by this time one would imagine that the hut of the peasant was the abode of content and neatness, and that his hovel like that of Baucis and Philemon, had grown into a habitable residence.

Experience however (that scrutinizing inquirer, who is not to be deceived by plausible theory substituted for practical benevolence) tells a very different story. A cursory glance at the outside of the cabin, stamps it the habitation of filth and misery, and when you enter, this conviction becomes certainty; all is nastiness and disorder, you cannot look without being offended by irregularity, you cannot tread without being defiled by filth, and were it not that some neighbouring mansion-house strikes you with an air of civilization, you might, without much violence to the imagination, suppose yourself in the wilds of Tartary, or the recesses of new Zealand.

Nor are the miserable inhabitants out of character with their shed; their persons begrimed with filth, their tattered garments and matted hair, the canker of sickness which undermines their frames, and the look of despair which saddens their countenances, are unequivocal proofs of the baseness of their food, the defectiveness of their clothing, and above all, of that despondency which arises from the uncertainty of their own state, and the anticipation of that poverty and dependence which must be the lot of their offspring.

To investigate this wretchedness, to trace it up to its true sources, and to discover why England should be a century more advanced in civilization than Ireland, though governed by the same laws, and divided but by a narrow sea, is a task which I leave for the present to your other Correspondents. I shall confine myself to the consideration of one a-

mongst the host of miseries which infect the Irish peasant, and suggest a mode of alleviating it, which may be carried into execution without much risk or trouble.

Those who know any thing of the diseases of the lower classes are aware that rheumatism stands foremost on the list, and that the beds on which they lie are the source of the disease; if, indeed, a heap of forlorn rubbish in a corner of the hotel, deserves the name of bed, a compound for the most of rotten straw and moist rushes, impregnated with the damp of the floor, and the dripping of the roof, called into action by the heat of the bodies which are nightly deposited upon it, and engendering maladies, which embitter life without abridging it, and subject the sufferer to all the prolonged varieties of arthritic torture. To prevent this protraction of pain would seem an easy task to those who know nothing of human nature and the difficulty of extracting money for charitable purposes from the pockets of the rich. A bedstead of rough wood costs little, and a sheaf of dry straw still less, and one would imagine that common compassion would supply these indispensable necessities to the indigent, or that (putting pity out of the question) policy would minister to the health of the labourer, upon whose exertions the gentry depend for their daily bread; but the observation proves such a persuasion false, it is notorious that in the scale of society accommodation is in the inverse ratio of utility; that he who sows and reaps the harvest, who waters the furrow with his sweat, and creates abundance with his sinews, is lodged where his employer would not venture his hogs, and fed much worse; while avarice spins the thread so fine between exertion and existence, that just enough of consistency is granted to preserve the bond, and the balance seems exactly struck between the greatest toil, and the poorest sustenance. There are some, who, in contempt of religion and in defiance of common feeling, say of self-interest, think this system right, and hug themselves in conviction that the labourer is so

differently constituted from themselves, as to be insensible to cold, to hunger, and to nakedness, and capable of enduring the vicissitudes of a variable climate, which they are hardly able to encounter, fortified with every comfort that ingenuity, selfishness and opulence can supply; to such, an appeal in behalf of poverty is nugatory, they would deride the vindicator of the indigent, and brand him either with treason or methodism; there are others who feel differently, and to them I would suggest the propriety of making some provision for the well-being of the poor; and none seems more obvious as well as more essential than what relates to their bedding; they should be all induced to alter the fatal habit which necessity has engendered of sleeping on the damp floor of their cabins, and furnished with sufficient covering to protect them from the inclemency of the season, nor will this essential relief fall heavily on the better classes, if they adopt a plan which has heretofore been attended with success, and in its issue reflected equal credit upon the honour and punctuality of the poor, and the truly christian and persevering character of its inestimable proposer.* He, in conjunction with some of the more opulent inhabitants in his neighbourhood, subscribed a sum of money with which a number of blankets were purchased at the opening of the winter 1799; thus, bought in quantity, and consequently in reduced price, they were distributed amongst the poor, at their original value, upon condition of repayment at the rate of sixpence a week, and this repayment was guaranteed to the subscribers by one or two solvent individuals, who passed a security for the punctual reimbursement by instalments.† This arrangement, which imparted the most effectual relief, in the way most convenient to the labourer and least onerous upon the opulent, was attended with the most

complete success; the individuals who had so liberally come forward with the loan of their money, had no reason to repent their confidence or their generosity; they were repaid the principal with scrupulous exactness, and in lieu of a pecuniary interest, received the still gratitude of distress essentially relieved, that sentiment which leaves a permanent impression on the mind; which blesteth him that gives, and him that receives, and attaches the rich to the poor by the indissoluble bond of reciprocal esteem. At a future opportunity I shall trouble you with some further observations upon this subject, and a detail of the plan above alluded to, the receipts and disbursements, and the mode so judiciously adopted of making the security of the liberal consistent with the succour of the indigent. In the mean time, if what has been already urged should induce any to associate for a similar purpose, they will, if proper precautions be taken, secure to themselves a very solid gratification at a very trifling sacrifice of time and money, and effectuate that species of good most wanted in Ireland, a good unmixed with ostentation, which does not break down the mind by a sense of obligation, cherishing the principles of economy and foresight, and conferring lasting comfort on the family of the labourer.

BENEVOLENT.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON THE AURORA BOREALIS.

IT is a curious circumstance that, the *aurora borealis* (as far as the writer of this article has been able to discover) has not been observed, either in England or Ireland, during this winter or the preceding; whether it has appeared, as usual, in the northern parts of Scotland, or in any part of the Continent in the same parallel of latitude with us, would be worth while to inquire. This phenomenon is so well known in this country under the name of *circumers*, that it is unnecessary for us here to spend much time in describing it. It generally begins in the north extending towards the west, but sometimes inclining to-

* The Rev. James Dunne.

† This plan has been adopted by the Maryborough Charitable Society, see Belfast Monthly Magazine for August 1809, page 104.

risks the east, a few hours after sunset, or between that and midnight, by a cloud appearing either on the horizon or elevated a few degrees above it, seldom so high as 50°, yet sometimes its elevation reaches 50°; or the cloud is separated from the horizon so that the whole sky may be seen between them. Its length possesses various degrees of the horizon, from 5 to 120 degrees. This cloud is sometimes of a whitish colour, but oftener black. The upper part exhibiting usually the figure of a segment of a circle of which the horizon forms the chord. The visible part of its circumference soon becomes figured with a whitish kind of light that resembles a luminous arch, or a number of concentric arches distinguished from one another by edgings composed of the obscure matter of the element; but when the phenomenon increases so as to spread to a considerable extent, its progress reveals itself by a general movement of the whole mass; numerous breaches are formed and instantly disappear from the arch and obscure segment, like vibratory corruscations of light, as by shocks every portion of the matter constituting the phenomenon; but, as for us who only see the extremities of these northern phenomena, we can have but a faint idea of their splendour or motions. It is in the northern latitudes of Sweden and Lapland that the *aurora boreales* are so singularly beautiful in their appearance, and afford materials by their almost constant vigilance, a very beautiful light during the long winter nights. The hunters, who pursue the white and red foxes in the confines of the icy regions, are often overtaken in their course by these northern lights. Their dogs often so frightened, that they do not move, but lie obstinately on the ground till the noise has passed; for in these northern latitudes they are always accompanied with a humming noise through the air, and sometimes slight detonations are distinctly heard. Similar lights, called *aurora australes* have been frequently observed towards the south pole, Phil. Trans. no. 461, sect. 23, and 25, and vol. liv. no. 53).

This phenomenon was certainly known to the ancients, and is described by Aristotle in his meteorology, lib. 1, c. 4, 5, as well as by many others of the ancient philosophers; but they were not so frequent in the more cultivated parts of Europe till about the year 1716, when by their more frequent appearance, they then began to attract the attention of almost all the eminent philosophers of Europe; and accordingly, since that time, various theories have been formed to account for their origin and appearance; however even at this day it is still a matter of doubt. The ancients attributed the aurora to vapours and exhalations, which, arising from the earth mix together, afterwards ferment, and at length take fire; others again imagine that the ice and snow of the polar circle reflect the solar rays towards the concave surface of the upper regions of the atmosphere whence they were sent back to us and produced these appearances that accompany the *aurora borealis* (See Haüy's *Traité de physique*) Amongst the modern philosophers who studied this part of meteorology with great attention is Mairan, who in his *Traité de l'Aurore Boreale*, supposes that the phenomenon takes place, when the solar atmosphere approaches so near the earth as to be more exposed to the attraction of this planet than to the sun's attraction, when once within the sphere of activity of the earth, it falls into our atmosphere and by a more rapid circular motion of the particles of the air in the equatorial regions is soon repelled towards the poles where the velocity of rotation is less, and this he states as the reason why the *aurora borealis* appears oftenest in the north, and then proceeds to explain the other circumstances of the phenomenon, and also of the zodiacal light. As the *aurora borealis*, which Mairan supposes to have its station in the atmosphere, is sometimes elevated more than 780 miles above the surface of the earth, this philosopher was obliged to give the atmosphere a height incomparably greater than is generally ascribed it; besides according to this hypothesis the aurora should proceed from the equator to the poles in-

stead of proceeding from the poles towards the equator as it invariably does. These defects in Mairan's theory was observed by the celebrated Euler, who proposed a new theory, which Mairan in his turn attempted to refute. This opinion supposes the particles of our atmosphere to be driven by the impulse of the solar rays to a great distance, and to become luminous by those rays being reflected on their surface. Euler extends this explanation to the appearance of the tails of comets and the zodiacal light; but it is unnecessary to follow him, as he has not supported his theory by any decisive argument. Among the causes to which the aurora borealis has been ascribed, it was impossible electricity could be forgotten, and the development of this theory belongs of right to Franklin; according to this celebrated philosopher, the electric fluid conveyed from the equator to the polar regions by clouds that are charged with it, falls with the snow on the ice that covers those regions; and being accumulated there, breaks through that low atmosphere, and runs along in the vacuum over the air towards the equator, diverging as the degrees of longitude enlarge, till it finds a passage to the earth in more temperate climates, or is mingled with the upper air, and gives all the appearances we have mentioned (see Haüy's Nat Phil. Trans. by Gregory).

The ingenious Mr. Dalton, in his Meteorological Observations and Essays, supposes the aurora borealis to be a magnetic phenomenon, whose beams are governed by the earth's magnetism, as it is highly probable that magnetism is nothing but electricity, or a modification of the electric fluid. Mr. Dalton's theory differs but little from Franklin's. The ingenious M. Libes has lately proposed a new theory of the aurora borealis, which has already been adopted by most of the northern philosophers. This is the most satisfactory theory that has yet appeared, and is an improvement of Dr. Franklin's, as the reader will easily perceive. According to this philosopher, as stated in the words of the respectable and ingenious Olinthus Gregory, the production of hydrogen

gas is next to nothing at the poles therefore as often as the electric is put into an equilibrated state the atmosphere, the spark, instead of passing through a mixture of hydrogenous and oxygenous gas, as in our climates, passes through a mixture of oxygenous and azotic gas, and therefore cause a production of nitrous gas, nitrous acid and nitric acid, which give birth to ruddy vapours, whose red colour will vary according to quantity and proportion of those different substances which are generated. These vapours are carried towards the meridian, where the air is undiluted, so that they approach more and more towards the spectator, and it is probable that their motion may be assisted by a north wind.

Lastly, the slight detonations which are sometimes heard, depend on the small quantity of hydrogenous gas, which is found in the upper regions of the atmosphere, and which combines with the oxygen to form water. These principles at the same time that they account, in M. Libes's estimation, for all the phenomena accompanying the aurora borealis, explain also, why it is so common towards the poles, and so rare in temperate regions; while thunder, which is frequent in the torrid zone, is scarcely ever heard in the polar regions.

The disengagement of hydrogenous gas is considerable near the equator, and very little towards the poles; and when we excite the electric spark in a mixture of hydrogenous gas, oxygen, and azote; it combines with a preference, the bases of the two former gases; the electric spark may therefore, to occasion thunder in hot countries, and to produce the aurora borealis alone in cold countries. It is in fact found to be the case; in the torrid zone, is the ordinary cause of thunder-storms; at 40 or 50 degrees they rarely occur out of the summer season; and near the poles they scarcely occur at all. The first of the storm is accompanied by lightning; and preceded by a period of heat which greatly facilitates the decomposition of water: there is therefore be a great quantity of disengaged hydrogen, which is raised to the superior parts of the atmosphere.

this hydrogen, when passing into gaseous state, carries with it a quantity of electricity. Now cannot be doubted that lightning reduced by the electric fluid,—as to the rain that is formed, moment when the lightning traverses the air, it can only arise from causes; either from the sudden agitation of the water which was raised in the atmosphere; or from combination of the oxygen and hydrogen gas, occasioned by the electric spark. Libes remarks that rain of a storm takes place very suddenly without there having been previously any cloud to disturb the transparency of the atmosphere; yet cannot be supposed that the water, which is in very small quantities and is really dissolved in the air, can be precipitated at once, as to form abundant rain. Hence he recurs to the contrary to the electric spark, which in its passage, effected with inconceivable rapidity, meets with a mixture of oxygen and hydrogen from the combination of whose bases flames effected and give birth to violent explosions, as well as to a quantity of rain proportional to the quantity of æriform fluids that have acted to produce the shower. This thesis explains clearly how there can be lightning without thunder, although there may be many clouds in the air; and why there should be violent thunder-storms in hot countries, and there are but few in cold ones. March 24, 1810. G.

from the *Belfast Monthly Magazine*.

being to introduce to our Readers the improved system of managing prisons, evinced by practical experiment, and as the moral discipline of a prison is essentially connected with a plan to mitigate the severity of the penal code, which plan we sincerely rejoice to find is in agitation, we are induced to give extracts from a pamphlet published some years ago entitled,

HIT TO THE PHILADELPHIA PRISON, IN A LETTER TO A FRIEND, BY ROBERT J. REBULL, OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

EXTERNALLY this prison presents itself as a very strong and

secure building, constructed of stone, with a ground floor and two stories; and rather resembling an incomplete hollow parallelogram than any other form, with a north front on Walnut, and a south one on Prune-street.—The principal front on Walnut-street, measures 190 feet in length, and 40 feet in depth. The east and west sides or wings of the same depth, respectively, extend at right angles with the main front, 95 feet in a southern direction, and then join stone walls of 20 feet in height, running to the south-east, and south-west corners. The west wing is on South Sixth street. These three sides are appropriated for the confinement of criminals, vagrants, &c. and whose outward appearance does not much resemble a prison, but is neat, handsome, and no inconsiderable ornament to the city.

Nearly contiguous to the east wing, is a brick edifice of two stories, raised upon arches, of about 40 feet in length, and 25 in breadth, set apart for the purpose of solitary confinement. The south front on Prune-street, is partly the wall, and partly the debtor's apartment, a stone building originally intended for a work-house, about 45 feet in length, and 55 in depth. The whole of the buildings, stand on a lot of 200 feet, by 400; 100 feet of the south part of which is divided off for the use of the debtors, by a wall running east and west.

Having been previously prepared with a permit, procured by a friend from one of the committee of Inspectors, to visit the prison, we delivered it at the door, when orders were immediately given to a turn-key, to conduct us through the different parts of it. We were first shown through the grand entry, secured by an iron grated door about midway, and from thence (across a court or passage running from one end of the front to the other) directly into the yard of the prison. Conceive my friend, the pleasant sensations which by turns took possession of our minds at the time, when I declare, that instead of having our eyes palled as we might naturally expect, by the gloomy appearance of

the walls of a jail yard, we found ourselves amidst a small industrious community. At the south-west corner of the yard stood a wooden building, in which is established a manufactory of nails on an extensive plan. Here are manufactured out nails of all descriptions, and particularly brads, of an excellent quality; the whole by a method easy and expeditious. We were informed by the superintendant of this manufactory, that about five hundred weight of nails were daily produced by the labour of the criminals.

Next to the manufactory is a blacksmith's shop, while in other parts of the yard are erected small sheds, where the occupations of sawing marble, cutting stone, &c. were pursued in their respective branches.—In short, there was such a spirit of industry visible on every side, and such contentment pervaded the countenances of all, that it was with difficulty I divested myself of the idea, that these men *surely were not* convicts, but accustomed to labour from their infancy.

Previous to proceeding further with an account of the prison and its government, it will here be necessary to digress and remind you, that the criminal laws of Pennsylvania, are established on so firm a foundation of lenity, as to abrogate the punishment of death for every crime except cool and deliberate murder.—On the first emigration to, and settlement of the country by William Penn, the charter from King Charles II. strictly enjoined the establishment of the statute and common law of the mother country. This was ill relished by such a friend of the human race as Penn, who wished for a more mild and rational code of criminal laws. Possessing a pure and enlightened mind, he engaged in the task, and produced a system, which confined the loss of life, as a punishment to deliberate murder only.—This departure however, as might be expected, met with little or no encouragement in England; on the new code being transmitted to Queen Anne for royal approbation (as was usually done with all laws, and indeed required by the charter) it met with

her decided displeasure, and was consequently annulled. It was not withstanding some short time after again enacted, and continued in force for upwards of thirty years, when a very long and warm dispute on the same subject, having arisen between the governor of the colony and the throne, the latter succeeded, and insisted upon, and established the law prescribed in the charter in their full extent.

In this situation did affairs remain until the bands of connection between Great Britain and America, were dissolved by the declaration of independence. Then, in the full possession of a liberty, the prospect which had induced the original inhabitants of Pennsylvania to fly from Europe, the revival of the former penal code, which had remained so long and obscure an oblivion, was immediately deemed an object of the first importance. Several circumstances combined, to make the proposed alteration expedient, and among others, the small and valuable gift of the immortal Beccaria to the world had its due influence and weight;—for on the framing of the (then) new constitution of the state, in 1776, the legislature were directed to proceed as soon as might be, to the reformation of the penal laws, and to invent punishments less sanguinary and better proportioned to the various degrees of criminality. The ravages of a ruinous and unnatural conflict with the subsequent distress occasioned by it, in a great degree postponed the carrying into effect these humane intentions, till the year 1786, when the foundation of this long desired reform was at length laid by an act of the legislature. By this act a mitigation was so far accomplished, as to reserve the punishment of death for four crimes, namely, murder, rape, arson, and treason; while all other offences were directed to be punished with whipping, imprisonment, and hard labour. Unfortunately, however for the friends of humanity, the new system of mildness was far from having the justice of a fair experiment, and was found by no means to embrace the views of its supporters. The number of convicts had in some

degree diminished, but in so very trifling a proportion, as not to render it an object worthy of legislative attention to continue lessening the then existing severity. A grand and important defect, though not generally observed, appeared too plain to some of the promoters of the plan, to inspire them with sanguine expectations of its success. It was the inefficacy of the punishments of public labour, mutilation and whipping, inasmuch as they destroyed an important end of punishment, that of the criminal's reformation. Too fatally was this experienced! The convicts who were sentenced to the wheel-barrow, and chained and dispersed along the streets and roads, exhibited, from the difficulty of superintending them, the most shameful scenes of drunkenness, indelicacy, and other excesses in vice. The inconveniences and mischievous effects of the punishment of public labour, at length became so intolerable, that it was regarded, and with much justice, as a common nuisance. In consequence of which, complaints against the alteration of the ancient penal code became daily more universal, and so much so at one time, as to threaten almost immediate destruction to all the schemes of the humane.

The Quakers had been the original advocates for the proscription of severity. The same motives which had uniformly distinguished the character of these people in their support of all charitable institutions, induced them still to keep the lead in a pursuit, equally noble and praiseworthy. Their spirit of perseverance then, when they had in contemplation the advancement of good order and humanity, was not to subside, even at this provoking trial of discouragement. The rapid growth and magnitude of the evil, served rather as a new incentive to awaken them more and to convince them, that without indefatigable pains, their important ends could never be accomplished. Necessity, which generally and bountifully gives a new tone and vigour to the genius, was not in this instance dilatory in the production of a remedy. Aided by other respectable and influential characters of the community,

BELFAST MAG. NO. XXII.

the quakers formed themselves into a society for alleviating the miseries of public prisons, the object of which was, to inquire into the abuses of prisons and public places of confinement, and to report them to the legislature, with a petition for redress; and also to examine the influence of confinement or imprisonment, on the morals of the persons who were the subjects of them.

The exertions of the society, after considerable opposition, procured from the legislature an amendment to the penal code, by an act of the 5th of April 1790, which abolished the former punishments, and established in lieu of them, private labour, fine and imprisonment. This law, it may be said, was forced from the legislature; for nothing but their confidence in the individuals who composed this association, could have persuaded them to risk a further experiment.—Anticipating few or no good consequences from the substitution of a mild discipline, instead of death, severity and irons, they thought it prudent, and took care to limit the existence of the law, for the space of five years. The act, after laying down several general regulations for the government of prisons, entrusts in the hands of a Board of inspectors, “the power of making, at their quarterly or other meetings, such further orders and regulations, for the purpose of carrying the act into execution, as should be approved by the Mayor and Recorder of the city.”—By a supplement to the act, passed in September 1791, the same power is transferred from the mayor and recorder, to the mayor, two aldermen, and two of the judges of the supreme court, or two of the judges of the court of common pleas of Philadelphia county.

I hinted that a considerable opposition had disputed the establishment of this mitigated mode of treatment. It existed for a length of time; and the most powerful proceeded, not so much from ignorance, prejudice, or want of benevolence (for its opposers were respectable and humane) as from the trifling prospect and hope, which a mistaken and too despicable opinion of persons guilty of offences, S 3

had led many to have, and entertain of its fortunate issue.

Among the services of several persons, who early formed an attachment to the principles of the society, those of the late attorney general of the United States, the worthy and much respected William Bradford, deceased, are sufficiently well known, to merit the recollection and gratitude of his countrymen. Being at that time judge of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, he had occasion to differ on this point, with his brethren on the bench, who denied their consent from none but the purest and most patriotic motives, such as their tried knowledge of crimes and criminals had prompted them conscientiously to respect. On the first appearance of the favourable symptoms which the triumph of their adversaries had effected in the government and conduct of the prisoners, they coincided, and afterwards contributed much to its maintenance.

To pass over the conduct of the enlightened doctor Benjamin Rush, might properly be deemed an act of omission. Although the pressing duties of his profession called for his humane assistance in other quarters, he was no less eager to appropriate occasionally, a few leisure hours, on the subject of a scheme so pregnant with the future happiness of millions, and which simply required public spirit and perseverance to deliver to mankind. With this view he came forward at a very critical juncture, and published a small pamphlet, called "*An Inquiry into the Effects of public Punishments upon Criminals and Society*;" in which, after displaying with a philosophic calmness, the greatest acquaintance with the springs of the human heart, he fully demonstrates their inutility and mischievous tendency. A few years' growth of the system which abolished them, has already established the truth of his principles.

Upon the whole, the promoters of this last grand work of philanthropy met with so much success in the experiment, and its operations produced so visible a change in the criminal dockets throughout the state, that the legislature, so far from suffering their

intended temporary law to expire without renewal, extended their lenity still further, and by the memorable act of the 22d of April, 1794, abolished the punishment of death for every crime, excepting murder of the first degree. Any kind of murder perpetrated by means of poison, by lying in wait, or by any other kind of wilful, deliberate, and premeditated killing, committed in the perpetration, or attempt to perpetrate any arson, rape, robbery, or burglary, is declared to be murder of the first degree. Persons guilty of other offences are therefore now divided into classes. Of the first class are all persons guilty of offences, which previous to the passing of the law, were punishable with death; and also those guilty of other heinous offences mentioned in the act. These undergo a punishment compounded of hard labour and solitary confinement, for a certain term of years. Those of the second class, are convicts condemned for offences less criminal, who are merely subjected to hard labour. As to the measure for each particular crime or misdemeanor, it is principally discretionary with the judges of the court, before whom they are tried, under the restrictions laid down in the first of the subjoined tables.

With these prefatory observations on the nature, progress, and gradual improvement, of the criminal laws of Pennsylvania, I shall be more in order to proceed with my description of the prison. From viewing the yard, our curiosity naturally led us to examine the interior apartments of the building. We first went through the ground floor, or front half story, chiefly appropriated for kitchens, which were exceedingly clean. Some men were busily employed in carrying plaister of Paris in lumps along this passage, to an apartment in the east end of the story, where it is ground by others, in a mill fixed for the purpose. There were several other rooms, but nothing material engaged our notice.

We next ascended the first whole story, with which there is no communication with the under, except by a flight of steps outside in the yard.

the back part of this, as well as the other floors, there are long courts or passages, extending from one end of the front to the other, about a width of 12 feet. Along the passage here, are ranged eight apartments, five of which being occupied as apartments of the jailer, and one made use of as the inspector's room, there is no entrance to them within side the iron-grated door. The rest open into the passage, and are workshops, with instruments and tools for carpenters, joiners, turners, shoemakers, hatters and taylorers. These different trades we saw carried on with all the industry imaginable. There were 10 persons in the court, employed in chipping logwood. The work shops were of the dimensions of 20 feet, by 12 feet; neat, healthy, and airy;—perfectly secure from fire and an escape, being arched over with stone, and having double iron gratings to the windows. No communication with the street can be effected by persons in the street.

The upper story contains the same number of rooms, ranged in like manner as the lower apartments; the first of which, at the west end, is set apart as an infirmary, for the reception of sick prisoners, and the rest are for the common prisoners. In each of the rooms there are about one dozen beds with mattresses, sheets, and rugs; every prisoner being allowed a single bed.—The front stories are appropriated to none but male convicts.

The first story of the east wing contains five apartments, constructed in the same manner, in which are confined persons accused and committed for trial, who are not made to labour. In the second or upper story, are the vagrants and runaway apprentices. These persons are employed in beating hemp, picking moss, hair, &c. or oakum. There is a court attached to this wing, measuring 90 by 12 feet.

We next visited the apartments of the women, in the west wing of the prison, on Sixth-street. The ground floor of this wing was formerly divided off into dungeons; but now seldom or never entered, unless to throw away wood, or any bulky article. In the first story are four

rooms, ranged in the same manner as those of the east wing, appropriated for the use of the female convicts; besides another, used as a store room for the articles manufactured in the house. The women perform their labour in the passage; they were engaged, some in spinning cotton and mop yarn, carding wool, picking cotton, sewing, and preparing flax and hemp; others in washing and mending. They have a court yard, of the same dimensions of the one belonging to the untried criminals, and male vagrants. In the upper story of this wing are confined female vagrants, and women of bad character, who are also kept at profitable employments.

You must admire, my friend, the excellency of these arrangements.—You perceive in the first place, there is no intercourse whatever between the males and females; they cannot even see each other. None again between convicted and untried criminals; nor between either of them and the vagrants. This must at all times be a desirable object. Persons who have not been convicted of the charges they stand imprisoned for, ought not in justice, to have a connection with, and be placed among, such prisoners as have been condemned. The difference of their situation demands a separation. On the other hand, as the intention of the new system of laws is not only to punish offenders, but to restore them reformed to society, it is more absolutely necessary that the convicts should be kept apart from the vagrants.

It is well known, that in no one place are offered more injurious and vicious examples, than in a prison, where condemned, untried, and all other classes of prisoners, are intermingled, without regard either to age, sex, or condition. Those in many parts of Europe, and several in America, have long stood melancholy evidences of this fact. Thousands are committed annually for a trifling fault, or misdemeanor; many from misfortune, or accident; and we may venture to assert, that scarcely one has been dismissed, with the same stock of morality he carried in with him. Accus-

tomed to idleness, debauchery, and practice of frauds upon their keepers, upon visitors, and upon each other, the young and inexperienced criminal is early taught to imitate the dexterity of his elders; the timorous soon acquires the audacity of his more hardened companions, the modest become spectators of, and inured to the indelicacy and indecency of others, and thus, amidst such frequent opportunities for vice, are planned, not a trifling proportion of the murders, robberies, and other kinds of villainy, perpetrated after their escape or discharge.

In Philadelphia, the *separation* of the different classes of prisoners was early deemed an object of the highest importance, by all who were in any wise interested in the then contemplated reform of the prison government, and as such steadily adhered to. The inhabitants of the prison were extremely averse to the measure, and were always more emboldened in their confidence of its failing, from the countenance of their jailer and keepers, who naturally preferred the old system, as it would furnish them with a greater harvest of perquisites and exactions. Finding at length that the perseverance of "the society for alleviating the miseries of prisons," bid fair to an extinction of all hopes of their continuing in the same scene of confusion, with one consent they resolved on a breach of prison. The attempt was accordingly made on the evening of the day the new order of things had taken place. Fortunately few of them escaped. The jailer was immediately discharged, and since that period almost every project for the same purpose has failed, either from the want of unanimity of the most evil disposed, the fears of those less so, or the decided disapprobation of the greatest proportion of the prisoners, to any thing of the kind.

Nothing appears more grievous to a person, long initiated into habits of indolence and licentiousness, than the idea of being compelled to alter them. This I hold as an undoubted position; and therefore the constant and hard labour, to which a criminal is sentenced in Pennsylvania, must

be productive (and it has been) of the most beneficial effects. Although humane, it is a punishment, sufficiently dreadful and severe to excite terror into the minds of the depraved; and, besides affording an example of true justice, it is of all others the best adapted for the amendment of the convict himself. Another thing; as the design of penalties is not only to prevent the commission of crimes, and reform offenders, but likewise to make reparation for the injury done to society, or one of its members; the last of these objects, cannot be better obtained, than by the personal industry of the criminal, while under condemnation. Of this the legislature were no doubt fully persuaded, when they fell upon the present improvement, in matters of jurisprudence.

The proceeds of the labour, and services of the delinquent are not, in every instance, applied to the use of the injured public, or individual. For if after making the reparation required by his sentence; that is, if at the expiration of his confinement, and after paying the expenses of his commitment, prosecution, and trial; the value of articles stolen, or damage done to the prosecutor; the fine to the common-wealth; hire of the tools he makes use of; and, lastly, the expenses of his board, clothing, washing, and lodging, any balance, or overplus, is found to remain, or be due to him, it is either paid to him in cash or clothing. The fine to the commonwealth is generally remitted.

That part of the sentence, including the costs and expenses of prosecution, and also the expenses of feeding and clothing a convict, are advanced by the county in which he takes his trial, and are afterwards repaid by the industry of the criminal. When the prisoners sent to the prison, from other counties, have incurred a charge for their maintenance, more than the profits of their labour will defray, they are reported by the inspectors to the commissioners of the county of Philadelphia, who are authorized to procure, a reimbursement, by drawing orders upon the treasurer of the

county, from which they are removed.

The quantity of stock and materials, working tools, and implements necessary for the constant employment of the prisoners are purchased by the jailer, with the approbation of two of the inspectors, and payment for them provided by the commissioners of the proper county. He delivers out their work, and receives it from them by weight or measure, as the case might be, in order to prevent embezzlement and waste. The work assigned the prisoners is adapted to their age, sex, and circumstances of health or ability, regard being had at the same time to the employment which is most profitable.

The agreement for the most valuable species of labour, such as stone-cutting, and sawing marble, as likewise for the purchase of nails, is made between the inspector and employer. The contracts for other work, as spinning, cabinet-makers, or joiners' work, &c. are commonly entered into with the jailer.

For each convict, a separate account is kept by the jailer, charging him with his clothing, sustenance, &c. and in which a reasonable allowance for his labour is credited. It is generally rather less than the wages of other workmen in the city. These accounts are balanced at short periods, in order that the overplus or proportion, which might be due to the prisoner, may be paid into the county treasury for safe keeping; and, once in every three months, they are audited before the inspectors. The committee of inspectors, once during the same period of time, fix the charges for the prisoners maintenance, which depend on the existing price of provisions, &c.

The clothing of the convicts is altogether manufactured in the prison, and adapted to the climate and season. In winter, the men are dressed in jackets, waistcoats and trousers of woollen; and in summer, with coarse linen shirts and trousers. The women in plain gowns of the same. The stuff for the whole is woven by the males, and made up by the fe-

males. There is, at the same time, not a mattress, sheet, rug, coverlid, nor any thing else in that line, but what is likewise manufactured in the house. The store-room contained a great stock, and variety of articles, in quality equal to any thing of the kind I have seen for some time. The most valuable articles, such as nails, plaister of Paris, marble, &c. are in such demand, as generally to be disposed of as soon as manufactured or prepared.

Great attention is paid to the health of the prisoners. On any person's complaining, and upon examination of the physician found to be diseased, he is removed to the infirmary of the prison, his name entered on a book kept for the purpose, and there remains until he is in a proper condition to leave it. The time is determined by the report of the physician, which, as soon as made, is entered in the keeper's book, when the prisoner must immediately resume his accustomed employment.

While at their work, the prisoners are permitted no singing or laughing, nor indeed any conversation, except such as may immediately relate to their business. This prohibition of all unnecessary converse is relied upon, as an essential point for the complete administration of the prison; and whoever will subscribe to the doctrine, that the less exertion which is given to the nerves and organs of sense, must calm the state of the system, and, by an immediate consequence, soften the disposition of the heart, will as readily consent to the policy of the regulation. But, to enter a jail, you will say, without being importuned by the frequent and insolent requests of some prisoners, or alarmed for your safety, from the daring threats and villainous miens of others, can alone proceed from the most extraordinary and severe discipline: and yet in this prison it is effected with ease.

This silence, which the inspectors have been so strict in enjoining upon the labourers, has been as rigidly put in practice, and is the first circumstance that will arrest the attention of a stranger. The behaviour

and looks of the criminals, at the same time, do not border on disgust, and of course are not troublesome, as on no account are they permitted to address, or beg alms of a visitor; nor do they do it. Having been left alone with the prisoners, at different times, in their several apartments, we wanted not opportunities to discover, whether the fear of their keepers, or their own conviction of the necessity of the regulation, had the greatest weight in restraining them from a breach of it: the latter we found to predominate. None of them ever made the first advances to converse with us, and only once was a request ventured, and then by an industrious shoemaker; and for what think you?—For a piece of tobacco. Fortunately one of our company had a little, which was given him. A chew of tobacco is esteemed a luxury with most of them, but strongly forbidden by the inspectors, and perhaps with much reason. It is an idle, dirty habit, affords no nutriment to the body, and not unfrequently leads to intemperance in drinking. However contrary our gift was to the rules of the prison, and notwithstanding it might have given offence, had it been known, still we should never reproach ourselves with our conduct. He must want a heart indeed, who could not have found a disposition to relieve, if placed in a similar situation. The man was industrious, his air interesting, the manner of his request modest and becoming.

All the prisoners rise at the dawn of day; so that after making their beds, cleansing and washing themselves, and other little necessary arrangements, they generally commence their labour by sun-rise. After this no convict can go into any part of the house, other than the place or apartment assigned for his business; and particularly the nailers, carpenters, shoemakers, and weavers, who can, on no pretence whatever, leave their shops, or permit any other prisoner to come into them, without giving immediate information to their keeper, or by permission of the keeper. The rooms in which they work are not locked. About seven are in a

shop, one of whom is appointed by the jailer, whose duty it is strictly to notice all offences, and in default of it, is punished according to the rules. For this, however, there is little or no necessity, as they commonly work under the mutual inspection of each other. The keepers constantly parade among the prisoners, in the court yards and passages.

At the approach of dusk the bell is rung, when they must leave off labour, immediately repair to their rooms, and form themselves in such a manner, that the keeper may have a perfect view of every person belonging to each room. They remain thus formed, till he calls the roll, and counts them: he then locks them up in their apartments, but without candle or fire, except in extreme cold weather. From this time half an hour is allowed them to adjust their bedding, after which they are not permitted to converse aloud, or make a noise.

Four watchmen are obliged to continue in the prison all night: two are within the iron-grated door, and two in the inspector's room. In their turns they patrol the passages constantly, and strike the bell every hour. They report, on the morning of the succeeding day, any remarkable occurrence of the night, to the clerk of the prison, who commits the same to writing, and lays it before the inspectors at their next meeting.

In going through this prison, you are not disgusted with those scenes of filth and misery, which generally distinguish jails from other places. On the contrary, the industry, cheerfulness, and cleanliness, which meet the eye in every direction, cannot but be peculiarly gratifying. I assure you that my nostrils were not once invaded by the least unwholesome or even offensive smell. In the bed-rooms, the beds were all made up, and the floors white, and perfectly free from dirt. This was so surprising, that one of our company in amazement inquired, how it was possible to enforce a regulation of this kind among so many people. "Oh, sir," answered the keeper, "our method is one and invariable.

The prisoners well know that a transgression of the rules is never overlooked, and contrive to adjust their conduct accordingly." On conversing further with him, I found that the criminals in the different rooms, for their own convenience and comfort, had adopted among themselves *secondary* and interior governments. One of their principal regulations relative to cleanliness was, that no one who found occasion could spit elsewhere than in the chimney. The punishment annexed to the person, who thought proper to infringe this general rule, was simply an exclusion from the society and conversation of his fellow convicts, and this is found to be sufficient.

By the laws of the prison the house must be swept every day by some one of the convicts. The duty is keen in rotation. It is also washed once a week in the winter, and twice in the summer, from one end to the other; and as often in a year completely white-washed.

During the fall of 1793, when the yellow fever had extended its fatal rages over every part of the city and suburbs of Philadelphia, we have from Mr. Carey, in his account of that calamity, that only six persons in the prison were taken sick, and sent to the hospital; although the situation of jails, even under the best administration, makes them most frequently liable to the generation of contagious and other diseases. At this time, too, were confined there, in the order of the French consul, one hundred and six French soldiers and sailors, besides one hundred other prisoners, composed of convicts, vagabonds, and criminals committed for trial.

The cleanliness of the prisoner's person is likewise particularly attended to. On the first admission of a convict, he is separately lodged, washed, and cleansed, and continues such separate lodging, till it is deemed prudent to admit him among other prisoners. The clothes in which he is committed are fumigated and laid by till his discharge. They are regularly shifted their linen, and are renewed twice a week. Previous to commencing their daily labour, they

are made to wash their face and hands, and in the summer months, to bathe themselves in a large basin in the court-yard provided for the purpose. Towels are fixed in the different courts. Their hair too is cut decent and short once in a month, and for the convenience of the barber, the whole number of men is generally divided into four equal parts; so that one-fourth part have their hair cut every week.

Independent of the individual comfort naturally arising from a strict attention to cleanliness, and its powerful conduciveness to health, it is more absolutely necessary among criminals, than with other persons. In a prison government, which contemplates the amendment of its subjects, it cannot with propriety be neglected.

We witnessed a circumstance, which would not only excite the astonishment of all, but must impress every visiter's mind with a favourable opinion of the administration of the prison. It is the humanity of the keepers to the convicts.

Yes, my friend, I have been in a prison, where the heart of a turn-key is like that of another man, and where humanity is the standing order of the day.

It is the chief object of the keepers, to command as much respect as possible from the criminal, and yet without laying him under any undue fear, or restraint. By these means the convict becomes insensibly and gradually attached to him, and his mind better prepared to receive any impression he might wish to make. The result of which is, that a keeper seldom speaks to a prisoner, but what he is answered with respect and with mildness.

Although reformed in other respects, many of them persevere in attesting their innocence, when addressed by a stranger.

Another incident occurred in our visit to the women's apartment, which no less evinced the good treatment these people meet with. The keeper who conducted us through this ward, had been absent for some time, and had accidentally called on a visit to the prison. The women

were about retiring from their labour; no sooner was the voice of this person heard on entering, than it was recollected by a decent looking young woman, standing in the passage, and in a moment *Davies* (for that was his name) was whispered through all the apartments. With the most heartfelt expressions of joy, she hastened from their seats to welcome him on his return, and on his part he received them with a mixed sense of tenderness and satisfaction. What a feast would this have been for a Howard's heart!

The male convicts are allowed, for breakfast and supper, as much as they can eat of a pudding made of the meal of maize corn, called mush. At dinner they have, three days in the week, about half a pound of bread, with a pint of potatoes; on other days mush and potatoes: on Sunday, a pound of wholesome meat is distributed to each prisoner. Those among them who behave themselves well are, at times, permitted the indulgence of procuring other provisions, at their own expense, but the practice is not common. The nourishment of the women is of the same quality with that of the males, only not as considerable, from their services being less laborious. Contracts for the food of all the prisoners are entered into by the jailer, and the whole paid for by the inspectors.

The drink of the criminals is molasses and water; spirituous liquors are forbidden, except for medical purposes, prescribed by the attending physician; and the person who sells, or suffers them to be introduced, on any other occasion, subjects himself to a penalty of five pounds: if an officer of the prison, dismissal from office. The reason of this rigorous regulation arises, in the first place, from the probability of the abuse which might be made of the practice, were it once introduced; and, in the next place, from the conviction of the inspectors, that those liquors act not so powerfully in strengthening a body, doomed to more than ordinary toil and labour, as the effects of good wholesome water. That whatever cheerfulness

or vigour it may produce in a labourer, it is merely temporary, and like all high stimulatives, its operations are no sooner at an end, than the system is left enervated and fatigued. Nor are the inspectors governed by less reasonable motives in their choice of a cheap diet, and the exclusion of much animal food from the convicts. The citizen who once makes a violation of the family compact has left but a very slender claim on the public attention: the only one, if it may be so called, is their obligation to restrict him from further opportunities of incommoding them, by reformation or other means; at the same time with the least possible expense to themselves. Happily the regulation fallen upon by the inspectors, with respect to the subsistence of the convicts, has appeared more likely to assist, in arriving at this desideratum of prison governments than many others through the same medium of diet, although more economical; that is to say, the two ideas of *economy* and *utility* are by it more closely connected.

The convicts are called to their meals by the ringing of a bell. We saw the men sit down to their supper, and I do not recollect a scene more interesting. At one view we beheld about ninety fellow-creatures, formerly lost, as it were, to their country, and the world, now collected into one body, and observing that air of *composure* and decency to each other, consequent only from a long and continued practice of moral habits. They were seated agreeably to classes, or rather, the shoe-makers, stone cutters, nailers, carpenters, and weavers, formed each a distinct class. During the time of eating, we witnessed no laughing nor even an indecent gesture; but a perfect and respectful silence reigned along the benches. They remained seated until all were ready to rise, of which notice was given by the attending keeper. They then immediately repaired to their respective employments. Their eating-room is the left part of the court of the front ground-floor or half story.

A person would conclude, that among these prisoners, made up of

the dregs of society, there could not possibly exist the harmony and good order which pervades and is visible in every part of the prison, and naturally inquire, by what means this decency of deportment can be brought about. I will answer you, my dear sir: not by such corporal punishment as whipping. This is now entirely unknown in the prison: the keepers are not even allowed to lay violent hands on any of the criminals. I have often wondered, for my part, that, in civilized countries, such a mode of punishment should be countenanced—one that originated among savages. To expose the bare back of a human creature to the lash of a whip, or cow-skin, is, to me, horrid; I never saw it executed, without feeling every sense of indignation. Can it be supposed, that, after fixing upon a man so indelible a stigma as the furrows of the lash, any hope of reformation can be cherished? Is not all his spirit destroyed, while labouring under an infamy of the kind? And will it not finally force him to despair, and consequently oblige him to seek revenge, by repeatedly harassing the race who occasioned it? Where, I ask, is the victim to the scourge, who has not become more hardened and depraved.

Besides, the slightest examination into the springs of human action will fully demonstrate the uselessness of this mode of punishment. We know that there are in every man, even in the most hardened offenders, some few sparks of honour, a certain consciousness of the intrinsic beauty of moral goodness, which though they may be latent and apparently extinguished, yet may at any time be kindled and roused into action, by the application of a proper stimulus. This stimulus must not be such a one as would, in its operations, suppress any of those passions with which it ought to act in unison; but, on the contrary, should awaken them as much as possible. A very predominant one is emulation: destroy that, and you at once paralyze the efforts of the soul, and place the axe to the root of all that is good and great. It is this passion which

spurs us to every worthy action; governs all ranks, from the prince to the peasant; and to which we are indebted for a great part of the improvements which have taken place among mankind.

The managers of the prison have so great a confidence in the efficacy of mild and gentle measures of treatment, that they will not suffer, on any account, such a constraintive measure as placing a criminal in irons; conceiving it by no means calculated to produce in the mind of the convict, the amelioration which is thought so essential for his amendment. Nor are the keepers permitted to carry sabres, pistols, or weapons of any kind, as is customary in prisons, nor even a cane, for fear that on a trifling provocation they might be induced to beat a criminal.

The keepers and turnkeys, my dear sir, are not similar in any respect to those in other countries; for independent of the little inclination they might have to ill treat a criminal, the strong recommendations required for their sobriety and humanity, being always necessary to the appointment of proper persons to fill those offices, still they would find the abuse almost impracticable, from the unremitted vigilance and attention of the inspectors. The appointment too of the jailer is more particularly attended to, as upon him, in a great measure, devolves a duty, which, if well executed, cannot fail to ensure a more complete success, to the new mode of discipline. His salary, therefore, is fully adequate to his services, as are those of the inferior officers. The total prohibition again of all perquisites, whether arising from the purchase of favours, or the retailing of spirituous liquors, dismissal fee, and in fact extortions of any kind; the unqualified proscription of feters, beating, and all arbitrary conduct whatever, and the end of the institution, aiming at the reformation instead of the debasement of criminals, makes the jailer's duty an humane one, and of course renders the place an object with many worthy persons in the community; when in most parts of the world,

the nature of their prison governments partakes of so much depravity, that the very existence of them depends on the exclusion of men of sensibility from those stations.

On the first entrance of a convict, the inspectors receive from a proper officer of the court, before whom the conviction was had, a brief report of the circumstances attending his crime; particularly such as tend to palliate or aggravate it, with other information respecting his behaviour on his trial, and his general conduct previous to and after receiving the sentence of the court. This knowledge of the prisoner's character and disposition, while it affords them an opportunity of ascertaining the degree of care, which may be requisite for the annihilation of his former bad habits, is yet attended with another advantage, that it early evinces to the criminal the strictness with which he may afterwards expect to be treated. He is then informed of, and made fully acquainted with the rules and government of the prison, and at the same instant no pains are wanting, on the part of the inspectors, to enforce upon his mind the strength of moral obligations; the breach he has made of those obligations; the consequent injury done thereby to the society which protected him; the forfeit he has made of that protection; and the necessity of making a compensation by his example or amendment. Add to this, every encouragement is given him to perform his duty with alacrity, and to observe a decency of conduct towards his keeper and co-associates. Animated also with a promise and hope, that an enlargement before the expiration of the term he is sentenced to, will most probably follow a long and uninterrupted line of good behaviour, the prisoner easily becomes sensible of the policy of a respectful, industrious deportment.

The inspectors, it ought to have been mentioned, are authorized to intercede with the executive power for the pardon of reformed convicts, and are generally able by their influence to obtain it. The right nevertheless they never exercise, but with extreme caution, and unless, from

the repeated reports of the jailers and keepers, they are persuaded that a prisoner has uniformly demeaned himself with propriety, has repented of his past follies, and in fact that a visible change and complete amendment has taken place.

At times the inspectors, in their tour of duty, make it a point to discourse with all the criminals, one by one separately, in order to assure them of their relative duties, considered as men, moralists, and members of society. The exhortations, on these occasions, proceed from them with such a philanthropic calmness, so much warmth of heart, that their appearance among the convicts never fails to cast a fresh beam of comfort on every countenance. Richard H. M*****, esq. entered while we were in the women's ward. He had the jail book in one hand, and a pencil in the other. This is customary with the inspectors on duty. Among others, a young negress accosted him on the subject of her confinement. With simplicity was her tale delivered—with attention was it listened to. Her sentence, if I mistake not, was two years imprisonment, nine months only of which had been complied with. No exception was ever taken to her conduct since her first entrance; it had been regularly pleasing. But the demand for a discharge was certainly unreasonable, and in that light viewed by Mr. M. and all of us. On his expostulating with her, on the impropriety of remitting so great a proportion of the sentence, she declared herself satisfied with his reasoning, and resumed her employment at the spinning-wheel with cheerfulness and activity. Such, my friend, is the result of deliberate persuasion in matters of this kind.

A criminal again, is well aware that wantonly to insult, or thwart the precepts of an inspector, would, in addition to the penalties annexed to this transgression by the rules of the house, render him despicable in the eyes of his brother convicts; a consideration of serious weight with all of them.

All means are used by the inspectors to promote moral and religious

improvement in the prison, by the introduction of useful books amongst those who request them, and the procuring the regular performance of divine service. To assist them in the pursuit of the latter arrangement, the task is voluntarily undertaken every Sunday forenoon and afternoon, by some one of the society of quakers, or the clergy of different denominations, and sometimes by the bishop. The service consists of a sermon, and a lecture, on subjects suited to the situation of the convicts. All the convicts, and other prisoners, both male and female, are compelled to give attendance, and arrange themselves according to classes. This is the only time in the week that the different classes of prisoners have a view of each other. From one of the inspectors I learned, that their attention to the speaker, and decency of conduct, on these occasions, is peculiarly striking to a bystander. The place appointed for the purpose is the long court of the first front story.

After so many different methods of inculcating morality among the inhabitants of the jail, a very strong motive to the effecting of which is found to be the good example and reformation of the major part of them, you may inquire, are there not men, nevertheless, so hardened as to require a much more forcible restraint from vice than this? Is there no motive of fear to govern characters like these? No punishment?—Yes, my friend, there is a principle not only of fear, but of horror; there is a dreaded punishment, as shall be explained to you.

When a convict has committed an offence, by refusing to labour, by profane cursing and swearing, or by quarrelling and abusive words, &c. he is first warned of it by the inspectors, the jailer, or the keeper, but no harsh words are spoken by either of them, to damp the spirit of, or expose the prisoners. On the contrary, I repeat, that every mild measure is made use of to persuade them from the same error, and how much it is their interest to adhere to an uniform good behaviour. If this fails in bringing a criminal to a

proper sense of his misconduct, and he is observed to be still callous, and likely to continue so, recourse is finally had to a punishment, which places him in a situation where nothing but reflection can occupy his mind, and which must necessarily compel him to listen to the advice of another monitor. This is by solitary confinement, which leads me to describe you the cells which we last of all visited.

These cells are contained in a brick building of two stories, raised upon arches, and early directed by the legislature to be built, for the purpose of this mode of punishment. It is contiguous to the east wing of the prison, and situated in a yard of the dimensions of one hundred and eighty feet by seventy. The greatest part of the yard is appropriated for a garden, managed by some of the convicts, wherein are a variety of fruits and vegetables. In number the cells are sixteen, and from their peculiar construction and solitary situation, appear to me to be better calculated to bring an offender to a review of himself and conduct, than any punishment that can possibly be contrived. The dimensions of them are eight feet in length, six in breadth, and ten in height, with no ground floor, strong thick partition walls and arched over with brick. They are all ranged along passages five feet wide, in the first and second stories of the building. The entrance at the head of each stair-case is well secured, by a strong door with locks and bolts, and the entry to each passage with two other doors, one of wood, fastened by a chain to another of iron. To each cell, again, there is a wooden and iron door, the latter secured by a long bar fitting a staple in the wall, about two feet from the door and fastened, some of them with padlocks, and others by bars running through the staples down to the floor. In every cell there is one small window, placed high up and out of the reach of the convict; the window well secured by a double iron grating, so that, provided an effort to get to it was successful, the person could perceive neither heaven nor earth,

on account of the thickness of the wall, and a *louver* outside admitting the light in an oblique direction from above. The criminal, while confined here, is permitted no convenience of bench, table, or even bed, or any thing else but what is barely necessary to support life, without a risk of endangering his health. A privy is placed at one corner of his apartment, leading to the common sewer communicating with the river, which may be cleansed at pleasure by turning a cock fixed to a pipe; this pipe is conveyed to a cistern, placed in the upper part of the building, near the roof, filled with water by a pump descending through the entries of each story to a well under the building. The situation of these cells is high and healthy, not subject to damps, as dungeons under ground generally are. They are finished with lime and plaster; white-washed twice a year; and in every respect as clean as any part of the prison. In winter, stoves, are placed in the passages, to keep the cells warm, from which the convicts may receive a necessary degree of heat, without being able to get at the fire. No communication whatever between the persons in the different cells can be effected, the walls being so thick as to render the loudest voice perfectly unintelligible; and as to any other sound, excepting the keeper's voice, and the unlocking of doors, they seldom hear. That the criminal may be prevented from seeing any person as much as possible, his provisions are only brought him once a day, and that in the morning.

You may conceive, my friend, what an effect the punishment of being confined in one of these cells must have on a refractory offender. For, besides every consideration of a dreary solitude and a want of comfort, and which must necessarily produce in a mind, thus forced to its own meditations, an uneasy remembrance of the convict's crime and errors, there is added a more painful one; that is, only half an allowance of provisions, consisting of bread and water. The utility of the punishment has been fully demon-

strated by experiment; for a prisoner was seldom known to continue long in a cell, before he has early become sensible of the difference of his situation, and would willingly have returned to that regularity of conduct and industry, which his misguided folly had induced him to depart from. Several of the most hardened and audacious criminals, on whom all other modes of discipline were attended with effects the very reverse of what they were designed to produce, and who in fact were held as objects incapable of amendment, have been, by the simple punishment of *solitary* confinement, transformed into such a calmness of disposition, as to have become entire new beings, and the least troublesome afterwards among the prisoners. We saw three persons in the cells: they pleaded hard for their enlargement once more among their fellow convicts, and offered to conform to any labour, to be released from their miserable mansions.

As to the quantum of confinement necessary to reform a prisoner, it is determined at the discretion of the jailer, who is notwithstanding obliged to inform the inspectors of it as soon as convenient. For a criminal who refuses to labour, it is generally 48 hours, and for other offences in a like proportion, according to the exigence of the case. It operates extremely to the prejudice of a convict to undergo this punishment, as he incurs by it a loss of the expenses of his board, washing, and lodging, which are still charged to his debt, and to make up which must consequently render his industry and services the greater after being again employed.

Besides those ordered into the cells for transgressing the rules of the house, there are other persons, whose original sentence includes the article of solitary confinement, as well as hard labour. These are the convicts contemplated by the law as belonging to the first class; such as persons guilty of rape, arson, and other offences, of which I have already spoken. They are not made, however, to undergo the whole of their term of confinement at first, although the greatest proportion is generally re-

ired, before they are permitted to labour. The inspectors have the power to direct the infliction of it at such intervals, and in the manner they shall judge best, provided the sole term is complied with, during the stay of the criminal in prison. Persons of this description and class, upon their request furnished with a book to read, generally the New Testament.

There is not, perhaps, a physical use, which has so powerful an influence on the moral faculty, as that of *solitary* confinement; inasmuch as it is the only one which can give a lonely communication with the world. We become by it gradually acquainted with a true knowledge of ourselves; with the purity of the tales prescribed to us by our ancestors; and of course easier convinced of the necessity of conforming to them. It is in this state of seclusion from the world, that the mind can be brought to contemplate itself, to judge of its powers, and thence to acquire the resolution of energy necessary to protect its senses from the intrusion of vicious thoughts; for "the actions of men are nothing more than their thoughts wrought into substance and being."

We completed, by a view of the solitary cells, our whole tour through the prison. We were an hour going through the different apartments; and declare to you, that never did I ever visit a place which gave me more satisfaction; never once in a manufactory, in which industry and almost inseparable companions, and Order and Contentment, appeared to have so firm an abode. I had heard much of the place before I visited it, but confess it exceeded every I had formed of it; and to convey you the same perfect idea of the institution I have, is not in my power. Suffice it to say, that our compassion was appealed to by no distressing tale of tyranny, or ill usage, no cries of poverty, no sighs or tears of wretchedness: on the contrary, we witnessed all that could enlighten and gratify the mind. Cleanliness was not often equalled, even in the most elegant houses; labour ever steady and constant; inspectors instructing;

keepers persuading; and criminals receiving, with attention and thankfulness, precepts for their future regulation and conduct: in a word, the whole presenting one picturesque scene of humanity, justice, benevolence, and gratitude.

Government or the public contribute not one shilling towards the maintenance of the jailer, keepers, &c. or to the payment of their salaries and other expenses. The money is simply advanced by them.

By the books and accounts of the Philadelphia prison it appears, that the yearly aggregate of the disbursements has not, for several years past, amounted to as much as it did formerly; notwithstanding the alteration made in the modes of punishment throughout the state has rendered it expedient to maintain more persons in confinement, and for longer periods. For this reason, under the present discipline, prisoners are not governed by beating, by irons, or any capricious constraints of turnkeys. Convicts, vagabonds, persons accused, unruly, or runaway apprentices, or servants, are not now intermingled and heaped together. Lenity has superseded the abuse of power; cleanliness and comfort take the place of filth and misery. Hence not as many diseases, quarrels, or escapes; a necessity for fewer keepers; less medical assistance, carpenters', or blacksmiths' repairs, &c. The physician's bill actually does not amount to the same by four-fifths; that of the blacksmithy has decreased in a still greater proportion. So that this annual overplus expected to arise from the greater economy of one system than the other, would of itself soon form a fund adequate to the reimbursement of such sums as might be necessarily advanced for the purpose of commencing a reform; while the issues and profits of the different establishments of manufactories by the labour of criminals, would afford a clear and considerable gain to the government. But even supposing, for instance, that the whole would occasion an increase of the public taxes, what is it, when placed in competition with the numerous advantages that may follow, the peace of society,

the better security of the lives and property of the persons upon whom those tributes are levied. No orderly citizen would think his mite ill bestowed for purposes of this kind. Legislatures, at every session, employ themselves in enacting laws for cutting new roads, beautifying cities or buildings, and public money expended to accomplish them; while criminal codes lay in the archives of a state, and few are induced to revise them, until the parchments on which they are written become either musty or worn-eaten. At the same time, there offers no where a more ample field for improvement than in the science of forming good penal systems; for of all others it has, in proportion to its magnitude, been the least attended to; and surely few ought to be more interesting, as few are more immediately connected with our happiness. The chief end of civil government is a preservation of the social compact; and as public measures approach to that point, so must they preserve a greater degree of brilliancy, and become more the objects of general admiration.

The prison and its several apartments are under the superintendence of a board or committee of inspectors, with legal powers, chosen from the mass of citizens. The election of one half of them takes place every six months, when those who desire it are generally re-elected. The appointment rests strictly with the mayor and two aldermen of Philadelphia, and the person chosen cannot decline without incurring a penalty of ten pounds; but the common practice latterly has been, that the inspectors going out of office should nominate as their successors, other persons willing to undertake the duty, which is always confirmed. The board consists of twelve, seven of whom form a *quorum*, and meet once a fortnight in the inspectors' room. Two of them are obliged to go over the whole prison together every Monday, and oftener, if occasion requires, who are named *visiting* inspectors. Their duty is to inspect not only the jailer and other officers, but particularly the behaviour and disposition of the prisoners; to see that they are pro-

perly and sufficiently employed; to inquire into their health, and take care that their food is served in quantity and quality agreeably to the directions of the board; that the sick are properly provided for; and that suitable clothing and bedding be furnished to all. They hear the grievances of the prisoners, and bring forward the cases of such whose conduct and circumstances may appear to merit the attention of the board. They cause returns to be made out by the clerk of the prison, and lay before the committee monthly, of all the prisoners, their crimes, length of confinement, by whom committed, and how discharged since the preceding return. Besides a regular attendance of the *visiting* inspectors, the prison is every day visited by some one or more of the committee. They all take great delight in, and are indefatigable in the execution of the humane task allotted them.

Subject to the directions of the committee are a jaileress, four keepers, one turnkey, and a clerk. The cook, scullion, barber, and other attendants are convicts, who are credited for their services in proportion to the time and labour they expend. I was surprised to find a female in the first appointment; and, on inquiry, found that her husband was formerly jailer. Discharging the duties of a tender parent towards his daughter, infected with the yellow fever in 1793, he caught the disorder, and died, leaving the prisoners to regret the loss of friend and protector, and the community that of a valuable citizen. In consideration of his faithful performance of the functions of his office, his widow was nominated to succeed him. She is exceedingly attentive and humane. Your uncle related to me, what to many would appear a curious anecdote of the lady. It occurred in his visit to the prison. After conversing with her for some time, he inquired of her whether there were no inconveniences attending the institution. With the greatest concern she replied, that there was one, which gave her a small degree of uneasiness: that the debtors in their apartments, from being able to overlook the yard and

the prison, made her fear that their conversing together, swearing, &c. might corrupt the *morals* of her people. You may think it strange, that debtors should corrupt criminals; but the case is really so, for there is certainly as much if not more morality among the latter than the former. And so fully convinced were the inspectors of her apprehensions being well founded, that, to remedy the defect, they have since had the prison wall raised.

Pursuant to the directions of the legislature, the prison is, at stated periods, visited by a committee, consisting of the mayor and a certain number of aldermen, with some of the judges of the supreme court. The governor of the state likewise, the judges and juries of all other courts, pay a visit to the institution during the same intervals of time. These visits were originally intended by the legislature, as well in order to ascertain how far the abolition of the old criminal code would be productive of the means of preventing wickedness and crimes, as to take care that the attention of the inspectors should be unremitting. They are now rendered not so necessary, as the innovation has been crowned with success, and the vigilance of the inspectors not likely to diminish, when none are appointed except upon their request or consent. They nevertheless answer one good end; for the approbation of such respectable committees must at all times tend to increase the care of those entrusted with the management of the house.

There are likewise two other visiting committees, who do not superintend, but notwithstanding have, at any time, from the nature of their duties, free access to the prison. One is from the society for alleviating the miseries of public prisons, who, as before observed, were the chief promoters of the present improvement in the penal code. The only pay attention to that part of the prison where the vagrants and persons confined for trial are lodged, and to whom several of the foregoing salutary regulations do not extend. They afford relief to suffering prisoners, which they have been able to ac-

complish to a considerable extent; partly by means of the annual contributions of the members, and partly by directing the distribution of what is occasionally given in donations. They pay off small fees when the case seems to deserve it, and when the party would perhaps be detained for them in confinement: they also make applications to the magistracy for the enlargement of persons illegally confined, which has sometimes happened from the obscurity and friendless condition of the parties. The other committee comes from "the Society for the gradual Abolition of Slavery," who inquire into the circumstances of every African, or other person of colour, and take care that none are imprisoned illegally. The services of this committee in putting a stop to various acts of oppression and injustice, which otherwise would have taken place either from the tyranny or caprice of *men-holders*, do them infinite honour. No doubt their zeal will increase with their success.

The consequences, I repeat, which have marked the progress of the latest legislative amendments to the criminal laws, have been so favourable, that crimes have actually diminished considerably, as will appear by the annexed tables. The present system too is considered by its friends as still in its infancy. Its effects also on the morals of the prisoners have been no less evident. Re-convictions are seldom heard of. Of all the convicts condemned for these five years past, not above five in a hundred have been known to return; and, to the honour of human nature be it spoken, that some of the convicts, at the expiration of their term of confinement, voluntarily* offered themselves, while the yellow fever raged in Philadelphia, to attend the sick as nurses at Bush hill, and conducted themselves with so much fidelity and tenderness, as to have had the repeated thanks of the managers. Few have been known to stay in the prison the whole of the term to which they were sentenced, the amendment and repentance of many of them being so visible to the inspectors as

* Carey's account of the yellow fever.

to have had a claim on the governor's clemency. Some have appropriated the proceeds of their labour, while in confinement, to the support of their families; and several, on leaving the prison, have received forty or fifty dollars, the overplus of the profits of their labour, and with this capital turned out honest and industrious members of society.

To be Continued.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON LUNATIC ASYLUMS.

BETHLEHEM hospital in Moorfields,* from which the word *bedlam* has been borrowed and applied to mad-houses in general, does not differ much in its internal economy from St. Luke's. Indeed a large part of the building has been lately pulled down, its precincts having been invaded by the growing streets, which seem to render the removal of such an asylum from the heart of a public city, to a more quiet situation, absolutely necessary.

It now contains about 140 patients, who are treated nearly in the same manner as those of St. Luke's; the present master of *this* hospital having lived for many years as keeper of Bethlehem. But, in my opinion, the rooms are neither so clean and comfortable, nor so well defended from the cold—nor have the patients of Bethlehem the convenience of such large retired airing grounds as are to be seen at St. Luke's: and, how much free exercise in an open air unpolluted with the vapours of a close city must contribute to the restoration of lunatics, will be obvious to every one, not to mention that they are here very accessible to the noise of carriages and waggons rolling in the adjacent streets; or the depressing gloom which their ravings, heard in the stillness of night, by the

casual passenger, must occasion— I have often experienced when passing near the walls of this hospital I believe these circumstances have already had weight with the governor and it is probable that before long a more eligible situation will be found for a building of so much importance. It is however still a venerable structure; and claims our admiration as well for its age, as for its past usefulness.*

There is a small establishment for the insane at Guy's hospital, in the borough of Southwark, that appears to be very well managed. Incurable only are admitted, and the present number does not exceed 26, who are all females and superintended by a very intelligent female keeper. The building is formed something like the letter Y, with two short galleries (having opposite cells) and a central square apartment for the keeper, from which both galleries are overlooked. There is one day room in each wing or horn of the building, near the central apartment; and a strong grating iron door defends this room at each side from the galleries. This establishment has one or two peculiarities which may be worth noticing. All the boxes, in which the patients lie upon straw, placed in the cells, as I have described them to be at St. Luke's, are lined with lead; and instead of the moisture draining through small holes in the false bottom at the foot of the bed, it is carried by the declivity, which gradually sinks in an oblique direction from the head towards the foot, into a small hole in the corner nearest the outward wall, where it is received into a pipe or conduit that runs all the length of the gallery at the outside. The master of St. Luke's informed me this was his suggestion; and I believe it has tended much to the cleanliness of the patients;

* "Bethlem hospital was originally a priory, founded by Simon Fitzroy, sheriff of London, in the year 1247, the members of which wore a star in commemoration of the star that guided the wise men on the birth of Christ, whence it derives its name. It was granted by Henry the eighth to the city for the cure of lunatics." *Higmore Pictas Londæ.*

* "The design of this hospital was taken from the Chateau de Tuilleries at Paris; the centre and wings of stone, with Corinthian pilasters, but the body of brick. Louis XIV. was so much offended at this copy of his palace, that he ordered a plan of St. James' palace to be taken for offices of a very inferior nature."

Vid. Higmore Pictas Londæ.

for amongst so many incurables there must be several inattentive to their excretions, whom no other contrivance could keep free from the most disgusting filthiness. The system of diet and management is nearly the same as at St. Luke's. When I visited the place I observed only three of the whole number in a state of coercion. The rest were knitting, or sowing, or mending their stockings, or reading, according to their several fancies; and one very significantly told me not to go too near a neighbour of hers, who was confined in the straight waistcoat and strapped to the wall, "for she sometimes kicked." This was indeed a very deplorable object. For 12 years she had been in that asylum, without a single lucid interval; about 40 years of age, pale and ghastly, with a countenance expressive of the most rooted enmity to all around her, and the most determined malevolence. She spoke to none; but her lips seemed constantly to mutter with the most horrid intentions. She ate voraciously, bolting every morsel that was presented to her—but was never known to sleep: For, at whatever hour of the night any one awoke, she was heard muttering in low dismal tones the secrets of her distempered imagination; secrets that she never revealed. But, such a maniac is one of ten thousand; for, the most incurable are sometimes permitted to enjoy a short period of reason's light, except the idiot, whose senses are dwindled away to a state of mere vegetable existence.

I suppose it will occur to most, who consider the subject with any degree of attention, that where a number of incurables associate together, and are subject to occasional paroxysms of fury, their attendants as well as companions would be liable to much danger from the sudden attacks of their distemper. This would be the case, if there were no warning signs of its approach. But such are generally observed for some little time before; and when the attack does take place amongst the other patients, these seem to be providentially restrained by a unanimous

emotion of silent and fixed contemplation from interfering on one point or the other. If they opposed the chaining or securing of a raging maniac, the consequences might be dreadful. I believe it frequently happens, that when a lunatic is seized with a fit of epilepsy—his companions fall upon him, and in a most unmerciful manner beat him, whilst in the fit. The spectacle is shocking to them, and rouses their indignation, for they seem at a loss to account for the involuntary struggles, that indicate so little self-command, in the victims of this deplorable malady. For the above reason, epileptics are not admitted into the well regulated lunatic hospitals either of England or France.

As to the means of coercion adopted in this asylum, I did not find that they differed much from the usual methods. I observed, however, a very good contrivance, to prevent those, who are impelled by a blind impulse to injure themselves, from doing much mischief. Sometimes even the straight waistcoat and chains will not prevent the unhappy lunatic from beating the head violently against the bedstead or wall. To counteract the evils of this propensity, it is found necessary to have a large soft bolster suspended from the wall, when the patient sits, or securely fixed in its place at the head of the bed, so as that the head shall be drawn closely towards it, by tying the straps that secure the arms very short and tight. By this means the head is left at liberty to roll from side to side upon the pillow; and at the same time, it is not pressed so inconveniently towards the breast, as to render the breathing in any way difficult.

After these few general remarks upon the treatment of Lunatics, during the prevalence of their complaint, it may perhaps be interesting to know something of the moral treatment, adopted in the public hospitals, at the time of their recovery, or during their convalescence. Notwithstanding all that I have heard and read of the causes of insanity depending upon organic injuries of the brain, and therefore requiring a treat-

ment strictly medical, I still consider that moral causes much more frequently produce the complaint, and that by moral remedies in consequence it will be most effectually removed. The former opinion implies a doctrine well calculated for those, who, themselves unacquainted with the gentler feelings of humanity, would prohibit that attention to the moral economy of lunatics, and that liberal spirit of inquiry into the mazes of disordered intellect, by which fury is repelled with mildness, instead of ignorant resentment; and confidence won by a firm but conciliating demeanour, with an open, undeceiving uniformity of character. I have so often heard of lunatics, who, under certain keepers were outrageous and wild, because they suffered chains and indignity, whilst under others they were inoffensive and sensible of kindness, because humanely treated; that I cannot believe any diseased structure of the brain should have been so obedient to the external manifestations of mind in different keepers, as must be necessarily inferred from such an opinion. I am however as far from denying the occasional disturbance of the brain and intellect from material agents—as, in cases of phrenzy from a coup de Soleil, of intoxication from spirituous liquors, and of delirium in various fevers, as I am from the unqualified admission that the cure is wholly to be looked for from medicine, or even from moral treatment in all cases of insanity. We know so little of the mysterious and much-talked of connection between matter and mind at the sensorium, that we have no data for positive proof of either one opinion or the other. And, therefore, those equally wander from the legitimate rules of philosophic induction, who assert that the mind wholly influences the body, because the emotion of anger may have caused death, or the sight of an epileptic, by sympathy, convulsions; with the less soaring observers of nature's operations, who maintain the superiority of the latter, because they can feel the most exquisite pleasures of sense, and sweetest enchantments of fancy from a dose of opium, or have seen the trepan re-

move a contused portion of the skull; and the stupified faculties instantly start, as from a dream, into pristine vigour.

But I must apologise for this digression, as, it is not within my plan to indulge in theory, whilst I may exclude remarks of practical importance; which, I acknowledge, it is my wish *only* to introduce in these communications.

The subject, upon which I had just begun to treat, is of the greater consequence, because errors of the superintendants, at the time their patients begin to manifest signs of returning reason, may throw the unhappy lunatic back into all the horrors of insanity, of gloomy apprehension, distrust, or furious rage; as a mist may obscure the sun, when his beams after a long absence, have begun to cheer the face of nature.

I do not altogether think it a wise regulation that from their first admission into these hospitals the patients may be visited by their friends. At Bedlam one day in the week is set apart for this purpose. I am not so certain of the regulation at St. Luke's. At the same time I am ready to allow that in such large establishments it must be extremely difficult to discriminate accurately between those cases which may be benefited—and those which may be injured by the visits of relations. It is generally admitted that, at the commencement of the disease, relations should not be seen. For, our best authors agree that "maniacs are less disposed to acquire a dislike to those who are strangers, than to those with whom they have been intimately acquainted."* Therefore, the presence of these frequently rouses their fury, and for a time should be strictly prohibited. When the mania has a little subsided, it is very conducive to their perfect recovery to be admitted to the society of their friends. For, whenever the natural affections begin to return, the calmness of reason adds also her blessings, and good hopes may then be entertained.

It is generally observed that those who are most impatient under confinement,

most confident of their re-established reason, and most importunate to be liberated, are the least of all to be trusted. Celsus made the remark formerly, and it may now be considered an aphorism in mental disorder.* On the contrary a good deal of reliance may always be placed in those, who acknowledge their infirmity, and reason calmly upon the degree of self-command, which they find it necessary to assume, in order to resist the impetuosity of their disease. I remember to have heard from Dr. Fox, when I had the pleasure of seeing his excellent private establishment near Bristol, about two years since, that he was now and then visited by a country gentleman, possessed of considerable property, unfortunately subject to periodical insanity, who discovered the approach of his disorder by certain signs, and always resigned himself voluntarily to the Doctor's humane care, until he found himself so far recovered that he could with propriety trust to his self-government. He was generally restored in a few months; and then took his leave, to resume his occupations, or amusements in the country.

When a lunatic appears sufficiently recovered, he is given to understand, that in consequence of his good behaviour he may be allowed to spend the day, with some of his friends, out of the hospital; but, that he must punctually return at a certain hour; and, if the master should hear any complaints of him, whilst absent, that he must again suffer the punishment and indignity of being confined with the most outrageous, or to his own cell. This threat has a very powerful effect, and is attended with the best consequences.

But, notwithstanding the wisdom and humanity of these regulations, there is still much wanting in the public lunatic asylums, to make them as perfect, as such establishments might be constituted, without a much more

complicated plan. It is not the least defect in St. Luke's and Bethlem that they have no regular mode of separating the convalescents from the furious, except by confining the latter, injuriously, to their cells, whilst their more peaceable neighbours are suffered to parade the galleries close by the very doors, liable to all their abuse and preposterous language. Pinel, the enlightened physician of the hospital de Bicetre in Paris, is very precise in his observations upon this subject, and relates the case of a musician, who "at the commencement of his convalescence, once expressed himself as if he had a confused recollection of his favourite amusement. His violin was brought, and his recovery was advancing by it. But, *about that time*, was admitted into the asylum, another maniac, who was exceedingly furious and extravagant. Frequent rencontres with this new comer, who was permitted to ramble about the garden without restraint, *again unhinged* the musician's mind, and overwhelmed its returning powers. The violin was forthwith destroyed; his favourite amusement was forsaken; and his insanity is now considered as confirmed and incurable—"an instance adds Pinel," equally distressing and remarkable of the contagious influence of acts of maniacal extravagance upon the state of convalescents; and a strong proof of the necessity of insulation. *Vid. Pinel Sect. 88.*

THOS. HANCOCK.

London, May 2, 1810.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

GENTLEMEN,

ON the arrival here of your Magazine for February last, I was astonished to see in it a most scurrilous and unmerited attack upon the character of one of my fellow students. It is contained in a paper entitled "a Letter to a student at College," written by some person who signs himself S.E. from Ballinahinch.

As this attack has been publicly made through your Magazine I trust that you will give me liberty through the same medium, publicly to repel it. In this, you will do justice not only to the person against whom it was intended, but to the whole body

* Neque credendum est, si vinculus aliquis, dum ligari vinculis cupit, sanguinem fugat; quamvis prudenter et miserabiliter loquatur, quoniam is dolus insanientis est."

Corn. Celsus, de medicina lib. iii. cap. xviii.

of the Irish students, who feel themselves included in it, and at the desire of a number of whom, I at present write.

"It seems," says S.E. in his letter, "some of our Irish bards attending college this season are ambitious to string Erin's lyre in the academic groves of Caledonia. To publish poems by subscription savours too much of an attempt to obtrude upon the world what the author fears would not obtain circulation by its native merit." This is a gross misstatement. The work to which he alludes was not published by subscription, though if it had, it certainly would, by no means, have detracted from its merit. Some of the finest works of genius which our language affords have been made public in this way. S.E. must be possessed of an amazingly bad memory, not to have recollected this. How in the name of wonder, did he forget the manner in which Pope published his immortal translation of Homer? How did he forget that the Scotch are proud to confess, that it was the liberality of their subscription that drew the brilliant genius of Burns from the shade? None will ever attempt to ridicule this method of publication, but such as are conscious that any effort of their own to bring their productions to the light by it, would be unsuccessful.

But it is time to give an account of the author whom S.E. so ungenerously attacks, and of the work concerning which he has published such an unjust representation. The author, Mr. Editor, is one whose name is not wholly unknown to a great number of your readers. It is almost needless to say that it is Mr. M'Henry, whose publication entitled the "*Bard of Erin, &c.*" which appeared in your town last Spring, and met with a great deal more than ordinary encouragement from his countrymen. I understand that it is now out of print, but I hope that the author will soon oblige the world with another edition. Shortly after he came hither, at November last, it was known to some of the students, that he had in manuscript, a beautiful little poem called "*Patrick*," a tale founded on incidents that took place in Ireland during the unhappy period of 1798,

he was requested to publish it, but declined, as he thought it would draw too much of his attention from his professional studies. He was, however, unwilling to deny any favour of this kind to his countrymen. He therefore put the manuscript into the hand of one of the students, to whom he resigned his right to an edition of 1000 copies. Accordingly, that student published it on his own account; but previously to its appearance, some handbills were circulated, not with a view to collect subscriptions, but merely to advertise the public that such a thing was going forward. The printer, either mistaking the design, or thinking it would be an improvement upon it, added of his own accord, to the end of the advertisement contained in the handbills, the expression, *subscriber's names*, and as the students were forward enough to show their zeal in patronizing the work, I believe that a considerable number of them actually set down their names. The publisher however, made no use of this, for though, in consequence of the author's popularity among the students, and of the excellence of the poem itself, in less than a month above 700 copies were sold, not one of them was required to be taken on account of having been subscribed for.

These are the simple facts with respect to this publication, the success of which, I suppose, has excited the envy of S.E. to endeavour in an illiberal and abusive, but I am convinced in the most *unsuccessful* manner, to make an unfavourable impression concerning it on the minds of such of your readers as may not have had an opportunity of seeing it.

It is Mr. Editor, in defence of the judgment of a most respectable and enlightened class of men, that I have now the honour to write; for not only the students, but the ablest among the professors themselves, have expressed their warm approbation of this work.

It is difficult to say whether the misrepresentation of the fact, from which S.E. takes occasion to attack Mr. M'Henry's person, or the indecency of the attack itself, be the more reprehensible; I am sure that there

not one of your readers (who understood the allusion) except S.E. that did not turn with abhorrence from it paragraph. A man may be excused for being a stupid writer, as is probably a natural defect, that cannot remedy, but there can be apology for his being an indelicate and unfeeling one, since it evinces a moral depravity, for which he is himself accountable. If the manners of men were too refined, even as far back as the days of Queen Ann, endure the ill-bred reflections of ennis upon the person of Mr. Pope, rely S.E. could intend nothing else, as to insult the more improved manners of the present times, if he expected that the public would approve of a similar conduct in him towards Mr. M'Henry.

The circumstance of which S.E. is made such an unmannerly use, simply this: In consequence of an accident with which Mr. M'Henry had the misfortune to meet, when child, he has ever since laboured under a weakness and slight curvature of the spine, which, besides making him to be a little below the common stature, sometimes occasions a considerable deal of uneasiness.—Shortly after his coming hither, Dr. Jeffray, who soon discovered his mental endowments to be above the common rate, took an interest in his elcase, and struck out the plan of an instrument which, by being worn round the body, the Dr. thought would tend to relieve this last inconvenience. Dr. Jeffray is confessably one of the most eminent characters of which the medical profession at present can boast. It is not therefore surprising that Mr. M'H. entered into his views, in this affair, especially as they afforded him the respect of his more comfortable enjoyment of life.

* As to the publication which he

so disrespectfully mentions, it is my opinion, that it will be read and admired centuries after the very best of his productions are forgotten. It is not at present my intention to enter into a particular review of its merits, but I am persuaded, that no

discernment. If I had been the writer, I would have substituted, in the place of that paragraph, the following critique, or, call it what you please, on Mr. M'Henry's poems.

"As to the publication, which S.E. disrespectfully mentions, it may be said of it, as of all the rest of Mr. M'Henry's poems, that it is not destitute of some of the excellencies of genuine poetry. We discern in these poems a considerable strength of imagination; the delightful effusions of a tender and feeling heart; perspicuity, simplicity, and, in some places, beauty of language; and also a good degree of smoothness and harmony in the versification. If they are not to be placed among the first poetical productions of the present age, they are, at least, above mediocrity. If Mr. M'Henry, as a poet, does not shine with a splendor, equal to that of a Scott, a Campbell, a Cowper, a Burns, and others; he at least diffuses a mild lustre, which attracts admiration, and gives him a distinguished place among our Irish bards. We see in his poems, genius struggling with difficulties and infirmities. But, on this account, we should not attempt to extinguish real sparks of genius, where they appear; but should rather endeavour to elicit them. It is the duty of the real critic to display the beauties, as well as to detect the faults, of any good poetry, which deserves criticism. The best of poets are not free from blemishes. *Homerus aliquando dormitat.* And every poet should be obliged to any judicious critic, who, while he points out his defects, cherishes the expanding blossoms of fancy, and defends them against the surly blasts of envy and detraction. Mr. M'Henry cannot suppose that his poems are faultless. We cannot expect to find in them the sublimity and majesty of Milton, or the vivid colouring, and descriptive painting of a Thomson. Such geniuses seldom appear; but we may, perhaps, find in the poems, to which we allude, something like the tenderness of a Shenstone, and other genuine marks of pastoral poetry. S.E. therefore, was wrong in throwing out indiscriminate censures, without distinctly marking either beauties or defects." AMICUS

* In this paragraph there is, perhaps, rather too warm an approbation of Mr. M'Henry's publication, joined with too severe a reprobation of S.E.'s performances. Indiscriminate censure, or applause, cannot give any pleasure to persons of refined taste and

person of a feeling mind can read it without being affected, and if he be an Irishman, he will be doubly so. From the whole of his remarks it is plain, that he has either not seen the work, that he endeavours to depreciate, or if he has seen it, that he has not been able to detect any blemishes in it; for if he had, he has shown disposition enough to have taken every advantage of them; but he has not noticed one, in either its plan, language, or ideas. From this circumstance your readers will form no very favourable opinion of his candour. He calls his unfounded, ill-conceived, and ill expressed invective, *a Criticism*, but in what respect it is so, I cannot imagine; indeed he seems himself to have been aware that the public would not of themselves discover it to be a composition of such dignity as a criticism. He therefore with great sagacity, takes care that they should not be mistaken, and plainly informs them that it is one.—In this he has successfully, though stupidly enough imitated the device of the man who after having painted the figure of a cock, found it to be so badly done, that he was under the necessity of painting the word cock over it, in order that the spectators might not mistake it for some other animal.

I cannot conclude without recommending it to S.E. that, for the future when he wishes to abuse any person's character in a public manner, he should inform himself more accurately than he has done in the present case, concerning the facts upon which he intends to build his animadversions. If he do not, he may depend upon it, that he will always be equally unsuccessful.

AN IRISH STUDENT.

Glasgow, April 3d, 1810.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

ON THE COMPATIBILITY OF JUDGMENT AND FEELING.

GENTLEMEN,

THE following reflections may be thought by some of your readers not quite uninteresting, at least if like me they shall consider them as forming part of a philosophical

inquiry into the nature of man; and your inserting them, may have the further good effect of inducing some more able writer to favour us with his thoughts upon the subject.

Whether a mind endowed with extreme sensibility, can also possess strong judgment, or whether the man of feeling, will not be hurried by the impulse of that sensibility into actions in which judgment has little share, is a point on which various opinions have been entertained. To enter into all of them, with the reasons that may be adduced in support of each, would carry me far beyond the limits of either my time or abilities. I shall therefore confine myself to a few observations; namely, that I have myself known several persons in whom both those seemingly opposite qualities have been united, and who to the strongest judgment on every conjuncture, have added the greatest warmth and delicacy of feeling. The reason of this seems to be, that as judgment is a quality of the understanding, sensibility the offspring of the heart, these two may exist, either together or separately, having no necessary connexion, nor being necessarily exclusive of each other. Those who suppose sensibility and strength to depend in some measure on the nervous system, may contend, that the same conformation of the nerves cannot produce both, and that in some instances they may be deemed physical rather than moral relations, but that judgment is not the effect of any merely animal property whatever, is pretty evident from its being often found in persons of the weakest constitution, neither does genuine sensibility seem to have any dependence on the state of the nerves.—That morbid species of it which is frequently observed in people who are subject to nervous complaints, being generally confined to what regards themselves and their own sensations alone, and being totally distinct from that sensibility which is, “tremblingly alive all over,” to the sufferings or enjoyments of others, true sensibility is seldom affected by selfish considerations, it is when the welfare of our fellows is at stake that its strongest emotions are excited, and

that we are tempted to make the greatest sacrifice, when by so doing, we can promote the happiness of those around us, particularly of those connected with us by the ties of blood or of friendship. To me the most perfect character appears to be that, in which judgment and sensibility are equally blended, the former without the latter would degenerate into inflexibility. It might certainly contribute to form an upright judge, a faithful and prudent adviser, an unprejudiced inquirer into causes and effects, an abstruse philosopher, a severe moralist, or a rigorous legislator, but would scarcely ever produce an amiable man; the latter without the former, would on the contrary continually betray us into error. Guided by impulse alone, we should act out for the present moment, incapable of sacrificing immediate indulgence to future enjoyment, even those who benefited by our kindness, though they might love, would seldom respect us, and though grateful for our services, would in all probability secretly despise the weakness which occasioned them; but where both are united, the character thus equally poised between two contrary extremes, partakes the advantages of both, free from the defects of either. Sensibility softens the inflexibility of judgment, while judgment strengthens the tenderness of sensibility. The prudent adviser becomes an indulgent friend, the philosopher a pleasing and instructive companion, the judge administers justice in mercy, the inquiring mind "looks through nature up to nature's God," the rigid moralist bends with compassion to human frailty, and the stern lawgiver, remembers that he also is man. In word, like the beautiful art of *chiaroscuro* in painting, it illuminates the darkest shades with the purest rays of brilliancy: the connoisseur of human character applauds the admirable adjustment and disposal of the whole, whilst the unenlightened mind pleased without knowing exactly why, gazes on the piece with rapture, and pronounces it the transcript of all that is good and fair.

Y.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

IN a small village in the eastern part of Ireland, a conversation arose on the propriety of writing a paper for the Magazine. Miss Piecrust was requested to write, as some of her friends told her they knew very well that she could write if she pleased; that they had seen extracts from letters she had written some years ago, which were very witty, and wise. This stirred up Miss Piecrust's vanity, and she began to look back on her girlish witticisms and fancies, and peculiarities: for all persons give themselves credit for some original ideas, and are proud of them, until ill-luck shows them the very same in some book, and puts them out of conceit with themselves. Miss Piecrust recollected that she had once written a little poem which was admired by her friends; now what could she write about? There were so many subjects, that she was quite at a loss. At the end of a week she was called upon by her friends for her production. "I have not begun any thing yet," said Miss Piecrust, "nor scarcely thought about it; I have many things to attend to. Give me any subject, and I will write upon it, but I have not time to think of subjects." "Write a poem, or an essay, or a dialogue, or a story," said Florella; "for one week lay aside your domestic business, and leave your mind unembarrassed to write one paper for the Magazine." "I have a great deal of employment at home," said Margaret, "but in my leisure hours I can write a great abundance." Miss Piecrust was forcibly struck with what had been said to her, and began to be afraid her genius was of an inferior class; this idea, if it got full possession of her mind, would prevent her for ever from writing;—still there was a ray of hope left: she had never attempted to write on any subject yet, that would meet the public eye: she felt the blood rising in her cheeks. This was a good presage. "A poem!" she exclaimed (one cheek got very red) "where is the subject?" The title,

however she thought might be fixed when she saw how the verse turned out. She began,

Thou muse who long ago didst find
An entrance to my young and juvenile
mind,

Now I implore thy aid,
But I am sore afraid,
Thou art engaged to spend the day else-
where,

With some more happy favourite fair,
Who has a better claim,
And acquired more fame ;
Oh ! I feel thou leaves me, and leaves me
in despair.

Alas ! alas !

The muse went away and left poor Miss Piecrust disconsolate. "Perhaps," said she, "I misconstrued my sensations, most assuredly I felt a sudden glow in my face." And surely she did so, for she sat very near a large fire which occasioned this sensation. So deeply was she occupied with her poem, that she forgot the pies in the oven—They were all burned to a cinder. It was however some consolation to our heroine, that no person is a poet always ; the pies were a loss indeed, but nothing to the loss of genius. She now began to dislike pies, as she feared she had sacrificed her genius to making pies, puddings, &c.

A dialogue was the next attempt. "Surely," said she, "we all talk in dialogues ; they must be very easily written."

A Dialogue between Godfrey and Clinker.

Clinker. Good morning to you Godfrey, how do you do ?

Godfrey. Indeed badly enough, thank you Clinker.

Clinker. What is the matter with you ? I would be sorry any thing ailed your father's son ; he was my staunch friend when I wanted a friend ; and that is the time to know a friend.

Godfrey. How did he serve you then ?

Clinker. Why when I first began business, and had no one to assist me, he gave me his custom, and brought me customers.

Here Miss Piecrust was quite exhausted. An essay was the next effort. She spent many a sleepless night, considering what to write.

The time on which she had promised to have her paper ready, was now very near, she therefore thought something must be done hastily.

An Essay.

There is nothing so injurious to the fine feelings as unremitted attention to culinary processes. It dries up the Heliconian stream, figuratively speaking, which more or less flows through the sensorium, or pericranium of every human being ; enabling him to set his ideas afloat, whenever he wishes, and fertilizing and making flowery his imagination at will.

This would not be long enough, and Miss Piecrust's ideas were so nearly exhausted, that she was quite at a loss how to proceed. She thought to manufacture a story. She wisely thought something ludicrous would be best, because if she fell short of matter, the humour would set off a fragment.

After mature deliberation she began the following.

A Tale.

Jemmy and Letty lived in a small village, and followed business that kept them both mostly in the house. They were sometimes tired of each other's company, and used to spar a little—Jemmy was very quiet, and would never scold if he was not provoked to it by Letty. One day they were sitting together silent, and Letty remarked the quantity of dust on Jemmy's coat, and chid him for not brushing it sometimes ; as he had regular play-hours, she remarked, which might be employed in this manner. This was a point Jemmy did not like to touch on, so they went to high words—At length Letty said to him, that if it were possible to catch the little particles of dust we see in a room when the sun shines into it, she would, and weave it into a suit of clothes for him.

To be Continued.

All these efforts were commended by Miss Piecrust's friends ; she therefore deserted her once favourite employment of making pies, for one much more laborious to her. She had a particular genius for pastry, and it was an useful employment ;

the now was like a certain gentleman who was offended at being told he was a good fiddler. He

threw away his fiddle and was good for nothing since.

A.E.

REVIEW OF NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Observations on the Criminal Law of England, as it relates to capital Punishments, and the mode in which it is administered. By Sir Samuel Romilly. London printed by J. M'Creech for Cadell and Davis 1810; price 2s. 6d. English, 76 p.p.

A DISPOSITION is generally prevalent among a certain class of people, to cry up our constitution and our laws, as being altogether excellent without any mixture of alloy, and to brand every attempt to introduce improvements either into the one or the other with the unpopular name of innovation, as if our ancestors had monopolized all wisdom, and left nothing to their successors, but "to wonder with a foolish face of praise," and in answer to all objections to reply in the silly language of chivalry, that our Duicinea is fairer than all others, who have been, or ever shall be hereafter. By such assertions we at once gratify our vanity and manifest our want of deep reflection; perpetuate abuses, and the real advantages derived from the accumulated wisdom of preceding ages joined to our own, are completely lost. Too many—

.....would scorn the boy should teach them skill,
And having once been wrong, will be so still."

A greater evil scarcely exists than this foolish dread of innovation, and into its service are enlisted some of the worst passions, which infest the human breast. In the absence of all sound argument, and in defiance of reason, because reason is against it, the advocates of ancient errors use calumny and malice as their frequent auxiliaries, and being unable to answer, they are ready to asperse, and attribute unworthy motives on suspicion, against innovators and reformers.

On many subjects reform stirs up a nest of hornets, in those who fatten on corruption, but the alteration of our criminal law has but little of this stimulus to force into action, and some might expect that the question would be left to be tried coolly and impartially on its own merits. But not so: the force of habit is powerful, and without discrimination: and the bigotted answer of the ancient British Barons "*Nolumus leges Angliæ mutari*," is still renewed, without taking pains to examine, how far laws made in a different state of civilization, are capable of improvement in a period of increased, and advancing knowledge.

Our criminal code is severe in the letter, in the extreme, but increasing knowledge, with more just and humane sentiments opposes the harshness of the written law, and is sometimes even in danger of leading to the opposite extreme of letting the guilty altogether escape, to their own injury, and to the injury of the community, rather than let them be punished too severely. Sir Samuel Romilly is engaged in the laudable attempt to try to prevail on the legislature to apportion more accurately punishment to crime. He remarks:

"The following observations contain the substance of a speech delivered in the house of commons on the 9th February 1810, on moving for leave to bring in bills, to repeal the acts of 10 and 11 Will. III. 12 Ann, and 24 Geo. II. which make the crimes of stealing privately in a shop, goods of the value of five shillings; or in a dwelling house, or on board a vessel in a navigable river, property of the value of forty shillings, capital felonies. Some arguments are added, which on that occasion were suppressed, that the patience of the house might not be put to too severe a trial.

"There is probably no other country
W w

in the world in which so many and so great a variety of human actions are punishable with loss of life as in England. These sanguinary statutes, however, are not carried into execution. For some time past the sentence of death has not been executed on more than a sixth part of all the persons on whom it has been pronounced, even taking into the calculation crimes the most atrocious and the most dangerous to society, murders, rapes, burning of houses, coining, forgery, and attempts to commit murder. If we exclude the e from our consideration, we shall find that the proportion which the number executed bears to those convicted is, perhaps as one to twenty: and if we proceed still further, and laying out of the account burglaries, highway robberies, horse-stealing, sheep-stealing, and returning from transportation, confine our observations to those larcencies, unaccompanied with any circumstance of aggravation, for which a capital punishment is appointed by law, such as stealing privately in shops, and stealing in dwelling-houses and on board ships, property of the value mentioned in the statutes, we shall find the proportion of those executed reduced very far indeed below that even of one to twenty.

"This mode of administering justice is supposed by some persons to be a regular, matured, and well-digested system. They imagine, that the state of things which we see existing is exactly that which was originally intended; that laws have been enacted which were never meant to be regularly enforced, but were to stand as objects of terror in our statute book, and to be called into action only occasionally, and under extraordinary circumstances, at the discretion of the judges. Such being supposed to be our criminal system, it is not surprising that there should have been found ingenious men to defend, and to applaud it. Nothing, however, can be more erroneous than this notion. Whether the practice which now prevails be right or wrong, whether beneficial or injurious to the community, it is certain that it is the effect not of design, but of that change which

has slowly taken place in the manners and character of the nation, which are now so repugnant to the spirit of these laws, that it has become impossible to carry them into execution.

"It appears that at the commencement of the present reign, the number of convicts executed, exceeded the number of those who were pardoned; but that at the present time, the number pardoned very far exceeds the number of those who are executed. This lenity I am very far from censuring; on the contrary, I applaud the wisdom as well as the humanity of it. If the law were unremittently executed, the evil would be still greater, and many more offenders would escape with full impunity: much fewer persons would be found to prosecute, witnesses would more frequently withhold the truth which they are sworn to speak, and juries would offend, in violation of their oaths, acquit those who are manifestly guilty. But a stronger proof can hardly be required than this comparison affords, that the present method of administering the law is not, as has been by some imagined, a system maturely formed, and regularly established, but that it is a practice which has gradually prevailed, as the laws have become less adapted to the state of society in which we live.

"There is no instance in which this alteration in the mode of administering the law has been more remarkable, than in those of privately stealing in a shop, or stable, goods of the value of five shillings, which is made punishable with death, by the statute of 10 and 11 William III. and of stealing in a dwelling house, property of the value of forty shillings, for which the same punishment is appointed by the statute of 12 Ann, and which statutes it is now proposed to repeal.

"What has been the number of persons convicted of these offences within the last seven years does not appear; but from the tables published under the authority of the Secretary of State, we find that within that period there were committed to New-

gate for trial, charged with the crime of stealing in dwelling-houses, 599 men, and 414 women; and charged with the crime of shop-lifting, 506 men, and 353 women; in all 1,872 persons, and of these only one was executed.

"In how many instances such crimes have been committed, and the persons robbed have not proceeded so far against the offenders as even to have them committed to prison: how many of the 1,872 thus committed were discharged, because those who had suffered by their crimes would not appear to give evidence upon their trial: in how many cases the witnesses who did appear withheld the evidence that they could have given: and how numerous were the instances in which juries found a compassionate verdict, in direct contradiction to the plain facts clearly established before them, we do not know; but that these evils must all have existed to a considerable degree, no man can doubt."

He also points out the dangers attending the present state of uncertainty, in the execution of the law, and shows the difficulties in which judges, jurors, prosecutors, and witnesses are involved, by reason of the extreme severity of the statute law, and which is productive of innumerable errors in the manner in which they respectively discharge their separate functions. If the law only affixed due, and nicely adjusted punishments to crimes; if legislators were as careful to frame equitable laws, as well calculated for the prevention, and moderate but certain punishment of crimes, as they are for the purposes of petty ambition and party views, then a real change would take place, and there would no longer be a plea for making a choice of evils, by taking the less evil instead of the greater; judges would no longer consider themselves as counsel for the prisoner, but hold an even balance between the accuser and the accused, for this maxim of being the prisoner's counsel must have arisen from an attempt to mitigate the unreasonable severity of the law; nor would jurors and witnesses prefer to commit perjury, and bring in verdicts contrary to their oaths, rather than convict: prosecutors

would not so often hesitate to punish offenders from the fear, lest in seeking for satisfaction for the injury they have received, they should themselves commit a greater act of injustice by being accessary in depriving a fellow-creature of life, because their property has suffered a little by his depredations. Sir Samuel proves the inconveniences of this system of uncertainty.

"It is alleged by those who approve of the present practice, that the actions which fall under the cognizance of human laws are so varied by the circumstances which attend them, that if the punishment appointed by the law were invariably inflicted for the same species of crime, it must be too severe for the offence, with the extenuating circumstances which in some instances attend it, and it must in others fall far short of the moral guilt of the crime, with its accompanying aggravations: that the only remedy for this, the only way in which it can be provided that the guilt and the punishment shall in all cases be commensurate, is to announce death as the appointed punishment, and to leave a wide discretion in the judge of relaxing that severity, and substituting a milder sentence in its place.

"If this be a just view of the subject, it would render the system more perfect, if in no case specific punishments were enacted, but it were always left to the judge, after the guilt of the criminal had been ascertained, to fix the punishment which he should suffer, from the severest allowed by our law; to the slightest penalty which it knows: and yet what Englishman would not be alarmed at the idea of living under a law which was thus uncertain and unknown, and of being continually exposed to the arbitrary severity of a magistrate?—All men would be shocked at a law which should declare that the offences of stealing in shops or dwelling houses, or on board ships, property of the different values mentioned in the several statutes, should in general be punished with transportation, but that the king and his judges should have the power, under circumstances of great aggravation, respecting which

they should be the sole arbiters, to order that the offender should suffer death; yet such is in practice the law of England.

"In some respects however, it would be far better that this ample and awful discretion should be formally vested in the judges, than that the present practice should obtain; for it would then be executed under a degree of responsibility which does not now belong to it. If a man were found guilty of having pilfered in a dwelling-house, property worth forty shillings, or in a shop that which was of the value only of five shillings, with no one circumstance whatever of aggravation, what judge whom the constitution had intrusted with an absolute discretion, and had left answerable only to public opinion for the exercise of it, would venture for such a transgression to inflict the punishment of death: but if in such a case, the law having fixed the punishment, the judge merely suffers that law to take its course, and does not interpose to snatch the miserable victim from his fate, who has a right to complain? A discretion to fix the doom of every convict, expressly given to the judges, would in all cases be most anxiously and scrupulously exercised; but appoint the punishment by law, and give the judge the power of remitting it, the case immediately assumes a very different complexion.

"A man is convicted of one of those larcenies made capital by law, and is besides a person of very bad character. It is not to such a man that mercy is to be extended; and the sentence of the law denouncing death, a remission of it must be called by the name of mercy; the man therefore is hanged; but in truth it is not for his crime that he suffers death, but for the badness of his reputation. Another man is suspected of a murder of which there is not legal evidence to convict him; there is proof however, of his having committed a larceny to the amount of forty shillings in a dwelling-house, and of that he is convicted. He, too, is not thought a fit object of clemency, and he is hanged, not for the crime of which he has been convicted, but for that of which he is only suspected. A third, upon his

trial for a capital larceny, attempts to establish his innocence by witnesses whom the jury disbelieve, and he is left for execution, because he has greatly enhanced his guilt by the subornation of perjured witnesses. In truth he suffers death, not for felony, but for subornation of perjury, although that be not the legal punishment of this offence.

"If so large a discretion as this can safely be intrusted to any magistrates, the legislature ought at least to lay down some general rules to direct or assist them in the exercise of it, that there might be, if not a perfect uniformity in the administration of justice, yet the same spirit always prevailing, and the same maxims always kept in view; and that the law, as it is executed, not being to be found in any written code, might at least be collected with some degree of certainty from an attentive observation of the actual execution of it. If this be not done, if every judge be left to follow the light of his own understanding, and to act upon the principles and the system which he has derived partly from his own observation, and his reading, and partly from his natural temper, and his early impressions, the law invariable only in theory, must in practice be continually shifting with the temper, and habits, and opinions of those by whom it is administered.

"In seeking to attain the same object they frequently do, and of necessity must, from the variety of opinions which must be found in different men, pursue very different courses. The same benevolence and humanity, understood in a more confined or a more enlarged sense, will determine one judge to pardon and another to punish. It has often happened, it necessarily must have happened, that the very same circumstance which is considered by one judge as matter of extenuation, is deemed by another a high aggravation of the crime. The former good character of the delinquent, his having come into a country in which he was a stranger to commit the offence, the frequency or the novelty of the crime, are all circumstances which have been upon some occasions considered by differ-

nt judges in those opposite lights : and it is not merely the particular circumstances attending the crime, it is the crime itself, which different judges sometimes consider in quite different points of view.

"Not a great many years ago, upon the Norfolk circuit, a larceny was committed by two men in a poultry yard, but only one of them was apprehended; the other having escaped into a distant part of the country, had eluded all pursuit. At the next assizes the apprehended thief was tried and convicted; but Lord Loughborough, before whom he was tried, thinking the offence a very slight one, sentenced him only to a few months' imprisonment. The news of this sentence having reached the accomplice in his retreat, he immediately returned and surrendered himself to take his trial at the next assizes — the next assizes came; but unfortunately for the prisoner, it was a different judge who presided; and still more unfortunately Mr. Justice Gould, who happened to be the judge, though of a very mild and indulgent disposition, had observed or thought he had observed, that men who set out with stealing fowls, generally end by committing the most atrocious crimes; and building a sort of system upon this observation, had made it a rule to punish this offence with very great severity, and he accordingly, to the great astonishment of this unhappy man, sentenced him to be transported. While one was taking his departure for Botany Bay, the term of the other's imprisonment had expired; and what must have been the notions which that little public, who witnessed and compared these two examples, formed of our system of criminal jurisprudence?

"In this uncertain administration of justice, not only different judges act upon different principles, but the same judge, under the same circumstances, acts differently at different times. It has been observed, that in the exercise of this judicial discretion, judges soon after their promotion, are generally inclined to great lenity; and that their practical principles alter, or as it is commonly expressed, they become more severe, as they become more

habituated to investigate the details of human misery, and human depravity.

"Let us only reflect how all these fluctuations of opinion and variations in practice must operate upon that portion of mankind, who are rendered obedient to the law only by the terror of punishment. After giving full weight to all the chances of complete impunity which they can suggest to their minds, they have besides to calculate upon the probabilities which there are after conviction, of their escaping a severe punishment; to speculate upon what judge will go the circuit, and upon the prospect of its being one of those who have been recently elevated to the bench. As it has been truly observed, that most men are apt to confide in their supposed good fortune, and to miscalculate as to the number of prizes which there are in the lottery of life, so are those dissolute and thoughtless men, whose evil dispositions penal laws are most necessary to repress, much too prone to deceive themselves in their speculations upon what I am afraid they accustom themselves to consider as the lottery of justice.

"Let it at the same time be remembered, that it is universally agreed, that the certainty of punishment is much more efficacious than any severity of example for the prevention of crimes. Indeed this is so evident, that if it were possible that punishment, as the consequence of guilt, could be reduced to an absolute certainty, a very slight penalty would be sufficient to prevent almost every species of crime, except those which arise from sudden gusts of ungovernable passion. If the restoration of the property stolen, and only a few weeks, or even a few days imprisonment, were the unavoidable consequence of theft, no theft would ever be committed. No man would steal what he was sure that he could not keep; no man would, by a voluntary act, deprive himself of his liberty, though but for a few days — It is the desire of a supposed good which is the incentive to every crime: no crime therefore, could exist, if it were infallibly certain that not good, but evil must follow, as an unavoidable consequence to the person who

committed it. This absolute certainty, however, is unattainable, where facts are to be ascertained by human testimony, and questions are to be decided by human judgments. All that can be done is, by a vigilant police, by rational rules of evidence, by clear laws, and by punishments proportioned to the guilt of the offender, to approach as nearly to that certainty as human imperfection will admit."

Many pages are occupied in confuting the opinions of Dr. Paley on the subject of the criminal law.

We are pleased in seeing our author detect the sophisms of Dr. Paley, who with many amiable qualities was too much the advocate for things as they are, and endeavoured to reconcile us to present systems with all their defects. The criminal code, as well as the ecclesiastical establishment, found in him, notwithstanding their multiplied imperfections, a casuistical defender determined to make reasoning bend in favour of what is established. Sir Samuel, in his reply, exposes the inequality of the law, which punishes offences less enormous, while others of greater magnitude, and more hurtful in their consequences, are passed by, or very slightly punished, and adduces the following instances accompanied with much just reasoning.

"The terms, "enormous crimes," and "heinous aggravations," are of so vague and indefinite a nature, that it is not possible to ascertain with accuracy in what sense they are here used; but understanding them in their common and popular acceptance, to mean actions of great moral depravity, it is not easy to understand how the punishment of them is secured by the system which Dr. Paley defends.

"On the one hand, it is not at all evident how the stealing privately in a shop, or the stealing from bleaching grounds, or the stealing of sheep, can under any circumstances be considered as an enormous crime, or accompanied with heinous aggravations; and on the other it must be admitted, that sanguinary as our law is, numerous as are our capital offences, wide, to use Dr. Paley's own metaphor, wide as the penal net, is spread,

there are many acts of the greatest moral depravity for which neither the punishment of death, nor any other punishment of great severity is provided. A guardian who has defrauded his ward of the property with which he was intrusted for her benefit, and who has besides seduced her and turned her out upon the world a beggar and a prostitute; a man who being married, has concealed that fact and having gained the affections of a virtuous woman, has persuaded her to become his wife, knowing at the same time that the truth cannot be long concealed, and that whenever disclosed it must plunge her into the deepest misery, and must have destroyed irretrievably all her prospect of happiness in life; has surely done that which better deserves the epithet of enormous crime, accompanied with heinous aggravation, than a butler who has stolen his master's wine. I am not a great many years ago since an attorney made it a practice, which for some time he carried on successfully, to steal men's estates by bringing ejectments, and getting some of his confederates to personate the proprietors, and let judgment go by default, or make an ineffectual defence; the consequence was that he was put into possession by legal process, and before another ejectment could be brought, or the judgment could be set aside, he had swept away the crops, and every thing that was valuable on the ground. If for this any punishment be provided by law, it is one far less severe than for the crime of petty larceny. That any of the actions which I have mentioned, merit the punishment of death, I certainly do not affirm. I have no criterion and the learned author has furnished me with none by which to determine how death is deserved;—but I am sure that stealing a few yards of ribbon or of lace in a shop, is an offence far below them in the scale of moral guilt.

"Admitting that the stealing of a sheep or a horse, may, under some possible circumstances, merit the punishment of death, how are we to comprehend that there are no possible circumstances that imagination can suggest, which would make the stealing

a hog or an ox deserving of the same fate? It must too, greatly astonish one, that any person who had misused himself of the catalogue of capital offences to be found in our law, long as it is, and who had reacted upon the actions which take place even in the ordinary intercourse of mankind, could ever have affirmed, that there was no act of gross immorality, or highly injurious to society, which might not by the present existing law of England be punished with death, or which in the language of this writer, is not swept to the net. There is nothing surely in this sentence that any one can approve, unless it be the happy choice of the metaphor. None indeed could have been found, which could have so forcibly described the situation of a man, who taking his notion of law from what he sees executed, and therefore thinking that the offence which he had committed could only subject him to imprisonment or transportation, finds to his surprise that he has forfeited his life. I remember seeing a person who had been present at a trial, describe the astonishment which was expressed in the language, and painted in the countenance of a wretch who was convicted of stealing his master's wine, finding that the sentence pronounced upon him was that of death, or, to use the language of Paley, at finding himself inextricably entangled in the fatal net. Fatal indeed it was to him, for the judge left him for execution.

"In what indeed consists the difficulty of marking out in general laws, the peculiar aggravations of crime which ought to be attended with aggravation of punishment, Dr. Paley has left altogether unexplained; and indeed a little farther on,* as if to convince readers that there is really no difficulty in the case, he himself enumerates several "aggravations which ought to guide the magistrate in the selection of objects of condign punishment." "These," he says, "are principally three, repetition, cruelty, and combination;" "In crimes," he adds, which are perpetrated by a

multitude or by a gang; it is proper to separate in the punishment, the ringleader from his followers, the principal from his accomplices, and even the person who struck the blow, broke the lock, or first entered the house, from those who joined him in the felony." Every one of the aggravations here enumerated, is undoubtedly as capable of being clearly and accurately described, in written laws, and as proper to be submitted to the decision of a jury, as the crimes themselves.

"The reason, indeed, which Dr. Paley gives for considering the circumstances which he last mentions as aggravations which ought to determine the fate of convicts, shows in the strongest possible light the necessity of their being stated in written laws. "It is not," he says, "so much on account of any distinction in the guilt of the offenders, as for the sake of casting an obstacle in the way of such confederacies, by rendering it difficult for the confederates to settle who shall begin the attack, or to find a man amongst the number willing to expose himself to greater danger than his associates." Now for this selection of offenders for severer punishment to produce the effects which are here pointed out, as its objects, it is indispensably necessary, not only that the selection should be constantly and invariably governed by the aggravations here enumerated, but that this should be made known to the public, and such a constant, invariable, and notorious practice can be secured by no other means than by laying it down as a certain and inflexible rule in a public law. That all, or that even a majority of the judges, exercise the tremendous discretion with which they are invested, upon the principles here stated by Dr. Paley, I am sure no one will pretend. That any one of them has adopted these principles is what I have never heard, and yet it is only by the principles being known, that the practice can effectuate its end.

"By this expedient," he proceeds, "few actually suffer death, whilst the dread and danger of it hang over the crimes of many." The chance of it, he should rather have said,

* Page 288.

hangs over the crimes of many. For the dread of punishment to prevent crimes, punishment must as nearly as can be effected, be the certain consequence of committing them.—Whereas all that is done by the administration of penal justice, in that method which Dr. Paley declares to be the best, is to make the punishment of death the possible, but by no means the probable consequence of the crime.—The dread that the offender may have the ill fortune to be the one who suffers, and not among the nine convicted offenders who escape, will undoubtedly have some, but it will be but a feeble influence, towards the prevention of offences.

“To subject by law ten men to the punishment of death, because one of them has, in opinion of the legislature, deserved it, or to speak more properly, has done that which makes it necessary to the public safety that his life should be sacrificed, and then “trust to the benignity” of the magistrate to discover the nine, against whom it was “never meant that the law should be carried into execution;” to have no better security for the proper execution of this most important office, than the benignity of the magistrate, and to afford him no light to guide him in the exercise of that benignity, is after all a very cruel conduct in those who are the makers of the law. The severity of our statutes is, it seems, to be relaxed, whenever those circumstances of aggravation are wanting which render so rigorous an interposition necessary; and yet the legislature is totally silent as to those aggravations. It omits any mention of the circumstances, without which its law is not to have the force of law. The legislature means that death shall be inflicted only in a given case, and it carefully avoids saying what that case is. While it openly denounces death for a certain crime, it really means that death shall be inflicted only if the guilt of some additional crime is added to it, and instead of particularizing that additional guilt, it leaves it to those who are to execute the law first to imagine what the legislature meant, and then to discover those undescribed

circumstances in each particular case.”

On the subject of pardon, we have the following judicious remarks.

“Those who to every attempt at improvement are accustomed to oppose a panegyric on our law and constitution, frequently adopt a course which is very convenient for their purpose. As theory and practice are often upon these subjects very dissimilar, and are sometimes in direct opposition to each other, they select for the topic of their encomium whichever they can represent in the most favourable light; and of this we have here a very remarkable instance. In every thing which Dr. Paley has hitherto said, it is the established practice, a practice which alters and almost supercedes the written law, which he has been vindicating: but now he suddenly takes an opposite course, and holds up to our admiration a part of the constitution which exists in theory, but is almost abrogated in practice. In every county of England but Middlesex, and in every part of Wales, this privilege of suspending the laws, high as it is, is exercised, not by the chief magistrate, but by subordinate officers in the state, and without the assistance of that best advice which the king can collect. It is true, that they exercise this privilege in the name of the king, in whose name too they administer the law; and if this fiction is to be resorted to, it may be said with as much truth, that the king decides causes, and tries prisoners, as that he exercises his power of suspending the laws.

“But let this power be deposited where it will,” adds Dr. Paley, “the exercise of it ought to be regarded as a judicial act; as a deliberation to be conducted with the same character of impartiality, with the same exact and diligent attention to the proper merits and circumstances of the case, as that which the judge upon the bench was expected to maintain and show in the trial of the prisoner’s guilt. The questions, whether the prisoner be guilty, or whether being guilty, he ought to be executed, are equally questions of public justice. The adjudication of the latter question is as much a

function of magistracy as the trial of the former. The public welfare is interested in both. The conviction of an offender should depend upon nothing but the proof of his guilt; nor the execution of the sentence upon any thing besides the quality and circumstances of his crime." Nothing can show in a stronger point of view the defects of the system which Dr. Paley defends, than this single passage. He here imposes upon the judges, duties which it is impossible for them to discharge. If indeed, he had contented himself with saying, that this suspension of the law ought never to be a favour "yielded to solicitation, or granted to friendship, or made subservient to the conciliating or gratifying of political attachments," no person could have disputed his doctrine, though many might have wondered that he had thought it worth while to state what was so obvious; but when he goes on to say, that it must be considered as a judicial act, or as the adjudication of a question of public justice, he really deals with the judges no less hardly than the Egyptian tyrant did with the children of Israel, when he commanded them to make bricks, but withheld from them the materials with which they were to be made. A judicial act is the application of an existing law to facts which have been judicially proved: but where is the law of which the judge, in the exercise of this power, is to make the application? Or how can it be said that there has been judicial proof of facts, for which the criminal has never been put upon his trial, which have never been submitted to a jury, and upon which, consequently, a jury has come to no decision?

"Of all the duties, indeed, which a judge has to discharge, the exercise of this discretion must be the most painful. It is true that there are no duties, however awful, no situation, however difficult, with which long habit will not render the best of men familiar; but if we represent to ourselves a judge newly raised to that eminence, just entering upon the circuit, and become for the first time the arbiter of the lives of his fellow-

creatures, we shall be able to form to ourselves some idea of the difficulties he has to encounter, and of the anxiety which he must necessarily feel. Sworn to administer the law, he is at the same time the depository of that royal clemency which is to interrupt its execution. In danger of obstructing the due course of justice on the one hand, or refusing mercy to those who have a fair claim to it on the other, he finds no rules laid down, or principles established by the legislature, to guide his judgment. He must fix for himself the principles and the rules by which he is to act, at the same time that he is to apply them and bring them into action, and yet he cannot but be aware, that the principles which he shall adopt will probably not be those of his successor, who will have maxims of justice and of mercy of his own, but which cannot possibly be foreseen; and at the same time he must know that it is nothing but a uniformity of practice which can make the exercise either of severity or of lenity useful to the public. In such a state of embarrassment, it is, that he is called upon to decide, and upon his decision the life of an individual depends; nay, upon the decision of a single case may depend the lives of many individuals. The clemency he shows, though it spares the life of a single convict, may be the means of alluring others to the commission of the same crime, who from other judges will not meet with the same lenity. The execution of a severe judgment may be the means of procuring impunity to many other criminals, by inducing prosecutors to shrink from their duty, and jurymen to violate their oaths.

"From the foregoing observations it should seem, that the laws, which it is proposed to repeal, cannot well be defended as part of a general system of criminal jurisprudence. Taken by themselves, it seems still more difficult to justify them. They are of such inordinate severity, that as laws now to be executed, no person would speak in their defence.

"It is sufficient, however, to say of those laws, that they are not, and that it is impossible that they should

be executed; and that instead of preventing, they have multiplied crimes, the very crimes they were intended to repress, and others no less alarming to society, perjury, and the obstructing the administration of justice.

"But although these laws are not executed, and may be said, therefore to exist only in theory, they are attended with many most serious practical consequences. Amongst these, it is not the least important, that they form a kind of standard of cruelty, to justify every harsh and excessive exercise of authority. Upon all such occasions these unexecuted laws are appealed to as if they were in daily execution. Complain of the very severe punishments which prevail in the army and navy, and you are told that the offences, which are so chastised, would by the municipal law be punished with death. When not long since a governor of one of the West India islands was accused of having ordered that a young woman should be tortured, his counsel said in his defence, that the woman had been guilty of a theft, and that by the laws of this country her life would have been forfeited. When in the framing new laws, it is proposed to appoint for a very slight transgression, a very severe punishment, the argument always urged in support of it is, that actions, not much more criminal, are by the already existing law punished with death. So in the exercise of that large discretion which is left to the judges, the state of the law affords a justification for severities, which could not otherwise be justified. When for an offence, which is very low in the scale of moral turpitude, the punishment of transportation for life is inflicted, a man who only compared the crime with the punishment, would be struck with its extraordinary severity; but he finds, upon inquiry, that all that mass of human suffering which is comprised in the sentence, passes by the names of tenderness and mercy, because death is affixed to the crime, by a law scarcely ever executed, and as some persons imagine, never intended to be executed.

"For the honour of our national

character; for the prevention of crimes for the maintenance of that respect which is due to the laws, and to the administration of justice; and for the sake of preserving the sanctity of oaths; it is highly expedient that these statutes should be repealed."

The difficulties in which jurors are sometimes involved, and the inconsistencies, which they adopt, rather than find guilty of death for small offences, while in fact they exemplify the struggles of conscience between pressing deviations from rectitude on either hand, are thus set forth at the conclusion of this pamphlet.

"The latitude which juries allow themselves in estimating the value of property stolen, with a view to the punishment which is to be the consequence of their verdict, is an evil of very great magnitude. Nothing can be more pernicious than that jury-men should think lightly of the important duties they are called upon to discharge, or should acquire a habit of trifling with the solemn oaths they take. And yet, ever since the passing of the acts which punish with death the stealing in shops or houses, or on board ships, property of the different values which are there mentioned, juries have, from motives of humanity, been in the habit of frequently finding by their verdicts, that the things stolen were worth much less than was clearly proved to be their value. It is held, indeed by some of the judges (whether by all of them, and upon all occasions, I am not certain) that juries in favour of life may fairly in fixing the value of the property, take into their consideration the depreciation of money which has taken place since the statutes passed, or in the words of Mr. Justice Blackstone, "may reduce the present nominal value of money to its ancient standard."* To show, therefore, to what an extent juries have assumed to themselves a power of dispensing with the law in this respect, it will be proper to refer to the earliest trials, for these offences, that I happen to have met with.

"In the year 1731-2, which was only thirty-two years after the act of King

* Com. vol. iv. p. 239.

William, and only sixteen after the act of Queen Ann, a period during which there had scarcely been any sensible diminution in the value of money, it appears from the sessions papers, that, of thirty three persons indicted at the Old Bailey for stealing privately in shops, warehouses, or stables, goods to the value of five shillings and upwards, only one was convicted, twelve were acquitted, and twenty were found guilty of the theft, but the things stolen were found to be worth less than five shillings. Of fifty-two persons tried in the same year at the Old Bailey, for stealing in dwelling houses, money, or other property of the value of forty shillings, only six were convicted, twenty-three were acquitted, and twenty-three were convicted of the larceny, but saved from a capital punishment by the jury stating the stolen property to be of less value than forty shillings. In the following years the numbers do not differ very materially from those in the year 1731.

"Some of the cases which occurred about this time are of such a kind, that it is difficult to imagine by what casuistry the jury could have been reconciled to their verdict. It may be proper to mention a few of them; Elizabeth Hobbs was tried in September 1732, for stealing in a dwelling-house one broad piece, two guineas, two half-guineas, and forty-four shillings in money. She confessed the fact, and the jury found her guilty, but found that the money stolen was worth only thirty-nine shillings. Mary Bradley, in May 1732, was indicted for stealing in a dwelling-house, lace which she had offered to sell for twelve guineas, and for which she had refused to take eight guineas; the jury, however, who found her guilty, found the lace to be worth no more than thirty-nine shillings. William Sherington, in October 1732, was indicted for stealing privately in a shop, goods which he had actually sold for £1 5s. and the jury found that they were worth only 4s. 10d.

"In the case of Michael Allom, indicted in February 1733, for privately stealing in a shop, forty-three dozen pairs of stockings, value £3 10s. It was proved that the prisoner had

sold them for a guinea and a half, to a witness who was produced on the trial, and yet the jury found him guilty of stealing what was only of the value of 4s. 10d. In another case, that of George Dawson and Joseph Hitch, also indicted in February 1733, it appeared that the two prisoners, in company together at the same time, stole the same goods privately in a shop, and the jury found one guilty to the amount of 4s. 10d. and the other to the amount of 5s. that is, that the same goods were at one and the same moment of different values. This monstrous proceeding is accounted for by finding that Dawson who was capitally convicted, had been tried before at the same sessions for a similar offence, and had been convicted of stealing to the amount only of 4s. 10d. The jury seem to have thought, that having had the benefit of their indulgence once, he was not entitled to it a second time, or in other words, that having once had a pardon at their hands, he had no further claims upon their mercy."

In this critique we have, as in former instances, preferred to give an abridgement of the author's train of reasoning on highly important subjects, putting our readers in possession of the substance of the book, and leaving them to their own conclusions. In the present instance Sir Samuel Romilly is entitled to the praise of using strenuous and enlightened exertions in the cause of humanity; on the one hand he is not inclined to support the cause of justice on angry and vindictive principles, nor on the other he is not seduced by a counterfeited philanthropy, to injure the innocent by letting the guilty escape, for into this error some well-meaning people have at times fallen; but his comprehensive views are directed to a liberal review of our system of jurisprudence, and to the laudable attempt to induce the legislature to proportion more accurately the punishment to the enormity of the offence committed. We most heartily wish success to his endeavours, which we trust will be ultimately crowned with success. The dread of innovation, and his present unpopularity in the

House on account of his honest defence of John Gale Jones, as some of the members threatened, has prevented his carrying the measure at present to the extent he wishes, but sooner or later we confidently trust justice and enlightened policy will prevail. The abolition of the slave trade, after years of patient and persevering struggle affords encouragement not to despair.

Before we dismiss the subject we have one important observation to make; that, laudable and praiseworthy as the attempt is to reform our criminal code, by lessening the number of capital offences, another reform is essentially necessary to be connected with it, to give it efficacy, and to lessen the number of crimes. We allude to a reform in the management of our jails, and a system of employing convicts in hard labour; at present the idleness of a prison corrupts its inmates. Convicts should be forced to work, and then one of the principal inducements to commit crimes would be removed, when it is found that transgressing the law leads to hard labour, coupled with

a judicious mixture of solitary confinement. In another part of this Magazine will be found an account of the Philadelphia prison, in which this system has been successfully tried. To render such a plan efficacious, much disinterested exertion would be wanted in those who would on principles of pure philanthropy undertake the superintendence of prisons, as inspectors, and doubts may be entertained, whether in this selfish and apathetic age, the plan would not fail for want of vigilant superintendants: yet we would heartily wish to see the attempt made, and we trust that there is yet as much virtue left, as would in some places insure support, while the example of a few might stimulate others. If the energies of governments, and the efforts of individuals were directed to the amelioration instead of the destruction of mankind, a new era of happiness would commence and peace and civilization would supplant the aggressions of private life, and the calamities of public warfare.

R.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF DISTINGUISHED PERSONS.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF MADAME ROLAND.

Continued from p.283, No. XXI.

"Tyrants! in vain ye trace the wizard ring;
In vain ye limit mind's unwearied spring,
What, can ye lull the winged winds asleep,
Arrest the rolling world, or chain the deep?
No—the wild wave condemns your scepter'd hand;
It roll'd not back when Cæsar gave command!
Mau! can thy doom no brighter soul allow?
Still must thou live a blot on Nature's brow?
Shall war's polluted banner ne'er be furld?
Shall crimes and tyrants cease but with the world?"

What, are thy triumphs, sacred Truth belied?

Why then hath Plato liv'd or Sydney died?

Yes, in that generous cause for ever strong,

The patriot's virtue, and the poet's song,
Still as the tide of ages rolls away,
Shall charm the world, unconscious of decay."

CAMPBELL'S PLEASURES OF HOPE.

RISING about noon the next day, Madame Roland, busied herself in arranging her apartment. She had in her pocket Thomson's Seasons, a work of which she was peculiarly fond. While she was employed in these peaceful preparations, she heard the town in a tumult, and the drums beating to arms. She could not help smiling at the contrast. "At any rate," said she to herself, "they will

prevent my living to my last moment, more happy in my consciousness, than my persecutors can with the rage that animates them. they condemn me to death, *I will to death as a man would go to war.*"

A multitude of new victims being brought to the Abbaye. Madame Roland was informed she must change situation. To be alone, she was obliged to be confined in a small set the window of which was over a centry who guarded the prison. "Who goes there? Kill him! Guard, patrol!" called out in a thundering voice, were the sounds that annoyed her through the night. The walls were illuminated, and from the number and frequency of the patrols was easy to infer, there had been no commotions, and that more reason to be feared. Madame Roland listened impatiently to hear the bolts of her door drawn back, that she might ask for a newspaper. She found in it the decree against the eighty-two proscribed deputies of the National Convention; the paper fell from her hands, while she exclaimed a transport of grief "*my country undone!*" Firm and tranquil herself, beneath the yoke of oppression, she could not see the triumph of truth and error, the national representation violated, the torch of civil cord lighted up, the enemy about to avail himself of the divisions of the people, freedom lost to the north of France, probity and talents prohibited, without poignant sorrow.—"Farewell my country!" exclaimed she, "sublime illusions, hope and happiness farewell! splendid chimeras! in which I reaped so much delight, are all dispelled by the horrible eruptions of this vast city. I despised life: the loss of you makes me detest it, and defy the utmost cruelty of the men of blood."

Several days elapsed and still she underwent no examination. To the administrators, who had visited her under different pretences, she uniformly expressed herself with force and dignity. During her confinement at the Abbaye, this courageous and fortunate woman beguiled her imprisonment by books and literary labours; she felt not *ennui*; which is

the disease of hearts without feeling, and of minds without resource in themselves.

Madame Roland had been induced by her love of order, and habits of regularity, to enquire into the customs and expenses of the prison, which she was desirous rigidly to observe. She determined to make an experiment how far the human mind was capable of diminishing gradually the wants of the body; as her purpose for adopting this plan was rather moral than economical, she appropriated the sums thus saved for the relief of those miserable wretches who were lying upon straw in the prison; she had the pleasure of reflecting that by these deprivations she was adding to the comfort of others.

On the 24th of June, the gaoler's wife came to inform Madame Roland that an administrator was waiting to see her. "I come, said he, to set you at liberty." "It is indeed," replied she, "very right to remove me from this place, but that is not all, I wish to return home, and the door of my apartment is sealed up." "The administration will have it opened in the course of the day." Her first idea was not to remove until the evening, but a little reflection convinced her of the folly of remaining in prison, whence she was free to depart; the gaoler was also impatient to take possession of her lodging. She was ignorant that he intended it for Brissot, whom she never even supposed was her neighbour, and that, soon after, it would be inhabited by a heroine worthy of a better age, and a better deed, the celebrated Charlotte Corday. Driving home, with the intention of staying there a short time; and then proceeding to the house of the worthy people who had adopted her daughter, she jumped lightly from the coach, and flew as on wings, under the gateway. "Good morrow Lamarre," said she to the porter cheerfully as she passed. She had scarcely proceeded up four or five steps, when she heard herself called by two men who followed her. "We arrest you," said they, "in the name of the law." "Let me sit down and breathe, exclaimed she," I must not rejoice at being set at liberty; it is only a

cruel artifice: I am no sooner released from the Abbaye, than I am ordered to St. Pelagie." Perceiving that expostulation would be vain, she suffered herself to be conveyed to the prison of St. Pelagie. This house had, under the old government, been inhabited by nuns, to whose charge was committed the female victims of *lettres-de-cachet*; it was situated in a remote quarter of the town, the inhabitants of which were well known for the ferocious spirit which they manifested in the month of September, by the massacre of so many priests. Her courage sunk not under her trials, but the refinement of cruelty which had attended her removal from the Abbaye filled her with indignation. "Feeling myself," says she, "in that state of mind when every impression becomes stronger, and its effects more prejudicial to health, I went to bed: I could not sleep, and it was not possible to avoid thinking. This violent state, however, never with me, lasts long. Being accustomed to govern my mind, I felt the want of self-possession, and thought myself a fool for affording a triumph to my enemies, by suffering them to break my spirit. Had I not here, as at the Abbaye, books and leisure? I began, indeed, to be angry with myself for allowing my peace of mind to be disturbed. I no longer thought of any thing but of enjoying existence, and of employing my faculties with that independence of spirit which a strong mind preserves in the midst of fetters, and which thus disappoints its most determined enemies."

Fortitude she justly considered, consisted not merely in an effort of the mind to rise above circumstances, but in maintaining this elevation by suitable conduct. She was not content with calling up, under unfortunate events, the maxims of philosophy to support her courage, but she provided agreeable amusements. She divided her days with a certain kind of order. In the morning she studied English in Shaftsbury's essay on virtue, and in the poetry of Thomson, by whom she was transported by turns to the sublime regions of intellect, and to the affecting scenes of nature. With Shaftsbury

she strengthened her reason, with Thomson she charmed her imagination, and delighted her feelings. Afterwards she employed herself with her crayons till the hour of dinner. It is only those who have acquired the habit of exerting their faculties, and exercising over themselves a voluntary controul, that evade the malice of fortune, and escape from a langour scarcely less cruel, and the most destructive of mental disorders.

It is impossible to withhold our respect from a mind, that, rich in its own resources, would calmly pursue its course, in a situation like that in which this deserving woman was so unworthily placed. The wing of St. Pelagie, appropriated to female prisoners, was divided into long and very narrow corridors, on one side of which were the cells. Under the same roof, and upon the same line, did the respectable wife of the virtuous Roland dwell in the midst of murderers and infamous wretches. "If this," observes the heroic sufferer, "be the reward of virtue on earth, who will be astonished at my contempt of life; and at the resolution with which I shall be able to look death in the face? It never appeared to me formidable; at present it is not without its charms, and I could embrace it with pleasure, did not my daughter invite me to stay a little longer with her; and if my voluntary exit would not furnish calumny with weapons against my husband, whose glory I ought to support, would they summon me before a tribunal."

The keepers of St. Pelagie, doubtless moved by the merit of their prisoner, were at pains to render her situation less disagreeable. The excessive heats of July rendering her cell, upon the white walls of which the sun fiercely struck, scarcely habitable, the wife of the gaoler, invited her charge to spend the day in her apartment.

At this period, her moral situation also became less dreadful. The rising of some of the departments revived her hopes; her husband was in a safe and peaceful retreat; her daughter in the house of her venerable

friends, continued, under their inspection, and with their children, her education; while the fugitives, her friends, welcomed at Caen, were here surrounded with a respectable force. She flattered herself that the salvation of her country was growing out of events, and resigned to her own fate, was still happy, while as usual, she employed her time in useful or agreeable occupations.

Madame Bouchard, perceiving that she availed herself with great reserve of the offer of her apartment, removed her altogether from her cell into a comfortable room. One morning one of the administrators happened to see Madame Roland in this room, and complained of the degree of comfort she was allowed, and ordered her immediately back to the miserable cell; these orders Madame Roland obeyed with tranquil resignation. The good nature of Madame Bouchard, extended itself to the minutest particulars, even to the very jasmine carried up before her window, round the bars of which it wound its flexible branches.

It has been falsely asserted that Madame Roland was minister under the name of her husband; on the contrary, it is declared by those who were best acquainted with facts, that she took no share in the routine of his department. Every sentiment in her mind was subordinate to the love of justice, and the maintenance of principle. But, though a stranger to what passed in the office of her husband, she was interested in his glory: when circumstances required a writing dictated by feeling, it was to her that the task was entrusted. Preserving the genius and character of M. Roland, she threw into the composition a force and passion that gave soul and animation to the arguments. It was the peculiar characteristic of her language to reanimate by confidence, to convince by energetic reasoning; she knew the springs of the human heart, which she never failed to move.

When the ruin of the minister was determined, his wife was involved in the proscription; a period in which her courage was severely tried, more particularly during the months of

December 1792, and of January 1793, when every day brought new dangers, and every night threatened assassination. Perpetually harassed with alarms, she was entreated by her friends to sleep out of the minister's hotel; but, incapable of pusillanimity, she yielded not to this advice without indignation.

Careless of personal safety, she trembled only for the safety of her daughter, whom she dared not expose to hazard. In concert with her husband, arrangements were made for the preservation of their child, whom she wished to confide to the protection of her husband's brother, who resided at Villefranche, in the department of the Rhine. To this gentleman she addressed a letter full of courage, of patriotism, and of resignation to the fate hanging over them; she recommended her daughter, her darling Eudora, to his paternal care. "I am" says she, "what you have always known me, devoted to the duties which I love, appreciating life for the blessings of nature, and the enjoyments of virtue; I am too much habituated to despise death, to fear, to fly from it. I leave my daughter good examples, and a memory ever dear to her. May she judge, feel, and avail herself of every thing, with a conscience always as pure, and a soul as expansive, as have been those of her parents!"

The brother to whom this letter was addressed, was guillotined by the temporary commission established at Lyons. During her imprisonment Madame Roland addressed the following letter to her daughter.

"October 18, 1793.

"I do not know, my dear girl, whether I shall be allowed to see you, or to write to you again. *Remember your mother.* In these few words is contained the best advice I can give you. You have seen me happy in fulfilling my duties, and in giving assistance to those who were in distress. It is the only way of being happy—You have seen me tranquil in misfortune, and in confinement, because I was free from remorse, and because I enjoyed the pleasing recollections that good actions leave behind them. These are the

only means that can enable us to support the evils of life, and the vicissitudes of fortune.

Perhaps you are not fated and I hope you are not, to undergo trials so severe as mine; but there are others against which you ought to be equally on your guard. Serious and industrious habits are the best preservative against every danger; and necessity as well as prudence command you to persevere diligently in your studies. Be worthy of your parents; they leave you great examples to follow; and if you are careful to avail yourself of them, your existence will not be useless to mankind. Farewell, my beloved child; I wish to impress you with all my sentiments. The time will come when you will be better able to judge of the efforts I make at this moment, to repress the tender emotions excited by your dear image. Farewell my Eudora."

Madame Bouchard's extreme kindness to her prisoner, gave birth to the idea of a project for the escape of her charge, but Madame Roland after some consideration rejected the plan lest it should again rouse the fury of her husband's enemies, which for the present seemed to slumber. "I was determined," says she, "not to expose any one; I cannot enjoy a liberty which would involve the safety of others; I will therefore remain in prison." The political atmosphere appeared in her apprehension overspread with a thicker gloom. "I shall not," said she, "leave this place, but to go to the scaffold. I am, however, less tormented by my own fate, than by the calamities which will overwhelm my country, which is ruined and undone."

Madame Roland had passed five months within the walls of St. Pelagie, when the twenty-two deputies were condemned to the scaffold; she considered their death as a presage of her own fate. "Unknown and overlooked," says she, "I might in solitude and silence have withdrawn myself from the horrors which rend the bosom of my country, and have waited in the practice of domestic virtues, for the period of its misfortunes. But a prisoner, and mark-

ed out as a victim, I shall only, by prolonging my existence, afford a new gratification to tyranny. Forgive me, respectable man, for disposing of a life which I had devoted to you; your misfortunes would have attached me to life; if I had been permitted to alleviate them. Forgive me, my dear child whose sweet image is impressed on my maternal heart, and staggers my resolution. Oh! certainly, I would not have deprived you of your guide, if it had been possible that they would have let her remain with you. But do what they will, they cannot rob you of my example; and I feel, and will venture to say, upon the very brink of the grave, that it is a rich inheritance."

She foresaw that Brissot's death was nearer at hand than her own. "He is confident!" said she; "he sees not that the fury of his enemies can be glutted only with blood. He must be apprised of this—Brissot, the most ardent apostle of liberty, must not be stabbed in the dark." She accordingly addressed a letter to Brissot, in the sentiments of which was combined all that is most sublime in philosophy, and consolatory in friendship. In consequence of her exhortations, Brissot composed his *Testament Politique*, which was considered by those to whom it was confided as superior to all that had before come from his pen; events had tempered the fire of his enthusiasm, while experience and misfortune had enlightened his judgment. His work passed the gates of the prison, and had gone through the press, when both the impression and the M.S. were destroyed by Robespierre.

On the day of Brissot's execution, Madame Roland was removed to the Conciergerie. The following day she was examined in the office of the tribunal, by judge David, accompanied by the public accuser. The debate was long and violent; the public accuser and judge, especially the first, behaved with the positiveness and acrimony of persons persuaded they had a great criminal before them, and impatient for her conviction. "I was kept three hours," says Madame Roland, "after which

the examination was suspended. A determination to destroy me seems evident. I will not prolong my life by any base subterfuge; neither will I lay bare my bosom to malevolence; nor facilitate, by a silly compliance, the labours of the public accuser, who seems desirous of my furnishing him by my answers with matter for the indictment which his zeal meditates against me." Two days after she was sent for to be re-examined. The charge brought against her was that she was the accomplice of men called conspirators. The sentence of death was preceded for form's sake, and according to the custom of that horrible tribunal, by a mock trial, in which Madame Roland was not allowed to speak, and in which hired assassins uttered the most atrocious calumnies before other ruffians, the execrable tools of Robespierre, so unworthily honoured with the title of judges and jurors. One person only paid the tribute of truth, and he was some time after sent on that account to the scaffold.

A few days before Madame Roland was dragged to the scaffold—"If fate" said she, "had allowed me to live, there was one thing only of which I should have been ambitious, that of writing the annals of the present age, or becoming the Maccabey of my country. I have during my confinement conceived a real fondness for Tacitus, and cannot go to rest until I have read a passage of his work. It seems to me that we see things in the same light; and that in time, and with a subject equally rich, it would not have been impossible for me to imitate his style. The French can only change their tyrants, they are already under a rod of iron, and every change appears to them a blessing; but incapable of effecting it themselves, they expect it from the first master who shall choose to assume the sovereign command. O Brutus! thou whose daring hand emancipated the degraded Romans, we have erred in vain like thee! Those just and enlightened men, whose ardent spirits longed for liberty, and who had prepared themselves for it, by the tranquil studies, and the silent retreats

of philosophy, flattered themselves like thee, that the subversion of despotism would establish the throne of justice and peace. Alas! it has only served as the signal for the most hateful passions, and the most execrable vice."

Madame Roland's last moments are thus described by Riouffe, who was detained in the *Conceirgerie*, when she arrived there.

"The blood of the twenty-two was not yet cold when Citizeness Roland was brought to the *Conceirgerie*; aware of the fate that awaited her, her peace of mind remained undisturbed. She often spoke to me at the grate with freedom and firmness, while we all stood listening around her in admiration and astonishment. Her conversation was serious without coldness; and she expressed herself with correctness, and a harmony and cadence with which the ear was never tired. She spake not of the deputies who had suffered death but with respect, and yet without effeminate compassion: she even reproached them for not adopting measures sufficiently strong. Sometimes her sex recovered its ascendancy, and it was easy to perceive that conjugal and maternal recollections had drawn tears from her eyes. This mixture of fortitude and softness, rendered her the more interesting. The day on which she was called up to be examined, we saw her pass with her usual firmness; but when she returned, it was not with dry eyes; she had been treated with harshness, in expressing her indignation at some questions highly injurious to her honour, which had been put to her; she was not able to suppress her tears. A mercenary pedant coldly insulted this admirable woman, celebrated for the excellence of her understanding; and who at the bar of the national convention had, by the graces of her eloquence, compelled even her enemies to admire her. She remained a week at the *Conceirgerie*, where her gentleness endeared her to all the prisoners, who sincerely deplored her fate. On the day of her condemnation, she would have melted the most savage nature, but these monsters

were without hearts; after her condemnation, she passed through the wicket with a quick step, bespeaking something like cheerfulness, and intimating by an expressive gesture that she was condemned to die. She had for the companion of her fate, a man whose fortitude equalled not her own; she found means however, to inspire him with a certain degree of courage; and this she did with a gaiety so cheering; so real, as several times to force a smile on his countenance. She had frequently said that her husband would not survive her; and soon after, we learned in our dungeons, that her prediction was accomplished. The virtuous Roland killed himself on the public road, thereby indicating his wish to die irreproachable, without endangering courageous hospitality. My heart, though suffering many torments in that horrible abode, felt nothing more severely than the pang occasioned by the death of this woman, *whose fame can never die.*"

Madame Roland beheld her execution approach with unaffected tranquillity. She suffered her hair to be cut off, and her hands to be bound without a murmur, or a complaint. She traversed Paris amidst the insults of the populace, and received death with heroic firmness. She even seemed to experience a degree of pleasure in this last sacrifice to her country. She expressed in dying, a wish to transmit to posterity the new and extraordinary sensations which she experienced in her road from the Conciergerie to the Place de la Revolution. For this purpose, when at the foot of the scaffold, she demanded pen and paper, which were refused to her. She did not deceive the expectations of her friends. She behaved on the scaffold with all the calmness of a great mind superior to the idea of death, and possessing sufficient power to overcome the natural horror of dissolution. At the place of execution she bowed down before the statue of liberty, and pronounced these memorable words...

"O liberty, how many crimes are committed in thy name!"

Such was the fate of this admirable woman whose energetic dis-

position, feeling heart and cultivated mind rendered her the delight and admiration of all who knew her. Her death reflects equal glory on her sex, and disgrace on her executioners. Assassinated at the age of thirty-nine, what a long career yet remained for her to run! It would have been the most interesting part of her life, and that in which reason, aided by experience, would have directed all her steps towards the greatest good of her country. Vain wishes! vain regrets! this estimable woman is no more; but her memory shall be long cherished by the true friends of freedom and liberty.

"Those heroes who fell in the soul-cheering cause,

To the true sons of freedom are dear,
Their worth the unborn shall rehearse
With applause,

And bedew their cold turf with a tear;
O! cherish their names, let their suffer-
ings and deeds,

Go forth on the wings of the wind,
And as man, prostrate man, your high
destiny reads,

May he learn his own chains to un-
bind."

At the news of the death of his wife, M. Roland, in his retreat fell into a crisis, in which it was believed he would have expired. His senses at length returning, he abandoned himself to despair, and determined not to survive his misfortune. From the fear of exposing to mischief the kind friends who had given him shelter, he resolved on quitting their house for the execution of his purpose. When these respectable friends found every effort vain to dissuade him from his resolution, they deliberated with him on the best means of effecting it. The first idea of this unfortunate husband was to repair privately to Paris, to throw himself into the middle of the convention, to force them to hear truths, which might be useful to their country, and afterwards to request death on the scaffold, where his wife had been previously sacrificed. He was induced to abandon this heroic plan by considerations which respected his daughter, who by this legal murder would suffer the confiscation of her property. He therefore retired a

few leagues from the house of his female friends, at Rouen, sat down on a bank, and plunged into his breast a sword which he had provided for the purpose. He received his death so composedly, that he was found the next day by some passengers leaning against a tree, as if in a slumber. How applicable are the words of one of our best northern

Irish poets on another occasion to the fate of this virtuous pair.

"Farewell blessed spirits! the finger of fame
Has twined a fair chaplet your brows to adorn,
In ages to come shall she boast of your name,
And tell your sad story to millions unborn."

ORIGINAL POETRY.

TO A PRIMROSE.

DEAR little flower of odour rare,
Sweet harbinger of Summer fair,
Thou smilest on thy lowly bed,
And all around thy fragrance shed.
In Flora's train among the first,
By bounteous nature kindly nursed
Within the lap of another Earth,
Till genial Spring commands thy birth.

While yet the chilling winds of March,
The aged and infirm search;
Thou dost expand thy tender form
And "bide the pelting of the storm."
Beneath some aged hawthorn bush,
Where cheery sits the sprightly thrush,
Perhaps some school-boy passing by,
Upon thee casts his gazing eye,
And plucks thee from thy natal soil
To feed his double sense a while.
Or in some lonely vale dost bloom,
Where thy native bed's thy tomb,
The hours are few thou dost consume. }
What pity, dost so soon decay,
That thou'rt not doom'd a longer day,
Thy odoriferous power to spread,
To all around thy humble bed!

Just so man's earthly race like thine,
Is but some fleeting hours of time,
For when Death waves his iron wand
Obey'd must be the dread command.
But not to sleep in death for ever,
The body and the soul must sever,
The body to its final rest,
The soul (if number'd with the blest)
Pursues its course through worlds unknown;

Unto the high celestial throne;
There to join the heavenly choir,
In praising the Almighty Sire;
There feast on never-fading joy,
And pleasure that knows no alloy.

Westland, March 2, 1810.

W.D.

REFLECTIONS OF A SWISS SOLDIER,

ON HEARING THE NATIONAL TUNE WHICH IS KNOWN TO PRODUCE THE DISEASE CALLED HOSTALGIA.

"The intrepid Swiss that guards a foreign shore,
Candem'd to climb his mountain cliffs no more,
If chance he hears the song so sweetly wail'd,
Which on those cliffs his infant hours beguil'd,
Melts at the long lost scenes that round him rise,
And sinks a martyr to repentant sighs."
Pleasures of Memory, part 1, p. 26.

YE strains! ye melting strains!
Fired at the piercing sound,
My bleeding heart complains,
With agonizing wound.

Oh! cease your meltings, cease!
Ye mind me of my home,
The dear abode of peace,
Where Fancy lov'd to roam.

Wide-wasting cruel War,
With stern tyrannic sway,
From Alpine hills afar,
Has torn me since away,
From wild o'erhanging woods;
From cliffs aloft in air;
From rapid rolling floods;
From mountains bleak and bare;

From streams and lonely dells,
In rural beauties wild;
Where simple pleasure dwells,
With Nature's happiest child;
From all my country's charms,
My country ever dear!

"The celebrated Ranz de Vaches; cet air si cher aux Suisses, qu'il fut défendu sous peine de mort de le jouer dans leur troupe parce qu'il faisoit fondre en larmes, départir ou mourir ceux qui l'entendoient, tant il excitoit en eux l'ardent désir de revoir leur pays."

Roussieu, Dictionnaire, de Musique.
TRANSLATION.

"This air, so dear to the Swiss, is prohibited under pain of death from being played in their troops, as it causes those who hear it to melt into tears, desert, or die, so much it excites in them the ardent desire of re-visiting their country."

Where social pleasure warms,
 And nature's beauties cheer;
 To roam the mountain's brow,
 Elite and unconfin'd;
 To range the vallies low,
 Free as the passing wind;
 To lead upon the green,
 The joyous dance along;
 When villagers were seen,
 To cheer the rustic song:
 When e'en the neighbouring groves,
 Their melody would join;
 And warblers' tuneful loves,
 Could transport add to mine.
 Oh! cease your meltings, cease,
 Ye mind me of my home;
 When every thought was peace,
 I dream'd no ills to come.
 Oh! memory, anguish burns
 My agonizing soul;
 Despair—regret by turns,
 Exert their fierce control.
 Now Discord flies abroad,
 And broods o'er rival kings;
 She shades th' ensanguin'd road,
 With Horror's dusky wings.
 Helvetia! fated land!
 To tyrant rule a prey!
 Thy youth—a mournful band,
 Are rudely torn away.
 Not ev'n the golden star
 Of Freedom lights their eyes;
 And guides their feet to war,
 And bids their valour rise.
 Oh! Liberty, the sound
 Is wounding to my ear,
 Till other Tells be found,
 The view is dark and drear.
 But Freedom's corse entomb'd,
 Till Phoenix-like she rise;
 Her sons, alas! are doom'd,
 To leave their native skies.
 And shall their valour join,
 To crush their tyrant's foe?
 Shall freedom's sons combine,
 Slaves—to lay freedom low?
 No, Altorf! high and proud,
 Thy soul the thought will spurn;
 Fame may proclaim aloud,
 What base-born wretches mourn.
 But thou wilt meet thy fate,
 With spirit proudly free,
 Nor shall a tyrant's hate,
 Nor death have fear for thee.
 Thus on the shores where Isler rolls his
 flood,
 A harping torrent, rapid, deep, and
 wide;

Two frowning armies, breathing horror
 stood,
 (Their hostile camps the far-famed
 waves divide.)
 Young Altorf heard the strains that fired
 his breast,
 Where far remov'd the scatter'd squa-
 drons lay,
 The moon arose in silver radiance dress,
 And solemn silence crown'd the parting
 day.
 Brave was the youth, and ever at the call
 Of glory, patriot-worth, his spirit glow-
 ed;
 Now tyrant laws his generous mind es-
 thral,
 And quench the flame with dire oppres-
 sion's load.
 Sad Philomel, with sympathetic strain,
 As if to ease his sorrows warbled nigh;
 Alas! her plaintive notes were heard in
 vain.
 Or only answered with a heaving sigh.
 And now from day to day, he pines with
 grief,
 Nor ever peaceful slumber steals his
 eyes,
 Till heaven in mercy sends the wished re-
 lief,
 And far from home—friends—country.
 Altorf dies!
 August, 1800. T.H.

FROM THE FRENCH, BY ———, ON THE
 ORIGINAL AND PRESENT STATE OF MAN—

THOUGH obscurity spreads her dark
 veil,

O'er the mind and the features of man,
 Yet the gloom cannot wholly conceal
 What he was when creation began;
 Like a monarch who seated on high,
 Falling suddenly down from his throne,
 There flashes from man's speaking eye,
 Some semblance of dignity flown;
 In his bosom a monitor pleads,
 In accents impressive and meek,
 To virtue and love it persuades,
 Nor ceases with ardour to speak:
 It tells him the skies are thy home,
 This earth cannot be thy abode,
 It says—from true peace thou dost roam,
 While thy heart is a stranger to God.
 Not all that this world calls great,
 Can fill up the void in man's breast,
 Let him roll in the splendour of state,
 Yet still he wants comfort and rest;
 In the moment when pleasures surround,
 He seeks but in vain for repose,
 In eternity's bosom 'tis found,
 There virtue true happiness knows.

I LOVE TO BE ALONE.

WHILE busy mortals crowd around,
The city, court and throng,
Intent to see, and to be seen,
To know and to be known ;
I turn away, content I turn,
To sweet domestic bow'rs,
And ponder how I best may spend,
My life's few fleeting hours.
The twinkling twilight oft I trace,
Sometimes the dusky dawn,
My steps unseen by human race,
I love to be alone : —
Yet sure my thoughtful, musing mind,
The social transport knows,
Round many a friend these opening arms
With extacy would close.
Sure I would leave my couch by night
To serve my greatest foe ;
Would quit the brightest hour of joy
To wipe the tear of woe.
'Tis giddy, trifling, vain parade
My heart and mind disown ;
The endless buzz by folly made,
I love to be alone. —
Yet not averse when duty calls,
I leave my quiet sphere,
And mingle in the walks of men,
The walks of men are dear !
I love the intellectual feast,
Shar'd with the good and wise,

Nor less the little temperate meal
Simplicity supplies.
I freely join the rustic throng,
Licentious scenes unknown ;
With children play, and ere 'tis long
I love to be alone.
But oh ! while Sorrow's mingled cries
Through earth's fair voice resound,
The ear of pensive Fancy tries,
To catch the piercing sound ;
Her wishful eyes survey the shores
Where sable lovers part,
Her trembling limbs fell iron tears,
And anguish breaks her heart.
Oh ! could I and this injur'd race,
I'd seek their flaming zone,
The white and sable tyrants face,
Nor wish to be alone.
And oh ! for sweet sincerity,
'The pensive muse shall guide,
I feel the lonely lot of man
Has happiness denied :
Unblest is he who wanders o'er
The varied plains of time,
Without a kind and faithful guide,
Companion of his prime.
Good-natur'd, faithful, kind and fair,
Was such a maid my own,
Better with her my lot to share,
Than live and die alone.
Cumberland.

J.W.

FOREIGN LITERATURE.

REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE
INSTITUTE.

Continued from p. 283, No. XXI.

ANOTHER letter from M. Favel, dated Athens, August the 26th, 1808, contains an inscription lately discovered near the city. It is in three lines, and wants only a few letters at the end of the first, and the beginning of the second. Restored by M. Visconti ; it expresses, that "the scholars of Julius Theodotus, the sophist of Melita, erected this monument to his memory." Whether the stone were surmounted with a statue or bust, or merely bore a bas-relief, does not appear. M. Visconti supposes it to have been the monument of Theodotus of Melita, a little town in Attica, who was a celebrated professor of eloquence at Athens in the reign of

Marcus Aurelius, and whose life has been written by Philostratus.

M. Visconti has likewise described an antique vase found in Sicily, and brought to Paris, where it is in the collection of a rich amateur. It is a ewer with one handle. On it is a nymph approaching a fountain, and gracefully holding up a very little from the ground the border of her garment with one hand, while with the other she is on the point of removing a vase which is just filled. The water issues from a colossal lion's mouth, the only ornament of the fountain. Shrubs and aquatic plants appear overshadowing the approach to it. Between their branches are void spaces, in which three Greek words are distinctly perceivable. They are written from right to left, which proves the great antiquity of the vase ;

and imply, "receive, keep, enjoy;" words of good omen, supposed to be addressed by the owner of the vase to the person to whom he presents it.

M. *Quatremère de Quincy*, continuing his inquiry into certain monuments of antiquity, and particularly those of which we have accounts in ancient authors, finds himself sometimes obliged to supply the brevity of their descriptions by combining the ideas of different writers, and collecting authorities scattered among numerous passages. This he has done with respect to the celebrated statue of Minerva in the Parthenon; but his paper embraces too many objects to admit of abridgment, and could not easily be understood without the explanatory 'figures' that accompany it.

The history of the Oriental nations, that have followed the law of Mohammed, forms a kind of second antiquity, filling the melancholy interval, which the barbarous times designated by the term of the middle ages occupy between the truly ancient and modern times. These people, barbarians themselves amid all their luxury and magnificence, exhibit to the man of learning a new and peculiar literature, and to the philosophical observer a religion formidable in its effects, and simple in its doctrines, but extremely complicated in the doctrines that have originated from it. M. *Silvestre de Sacy* continues to trace through all its ramifications the vast tree of religious errors, sprung from the grand error of Mohammedanism. The Druses, whose history he has now undertaken, derive their origin from the sect of Fatimite khalifs, which was itself a branch of the Carmathians, who sprung from the Ishmaelians; a sect, the doctrines, power, and astonishing progress of which he had already related. The Ishmaelians of Persia and Syria, known under the name of Molasheds and Assassins, and famous in the history of the Croisades, have supplied him with the subject of a second paper.

The history of this dynasty of Ishmaelians was but imperfectly known, though mentioned by many authors. M. de Sacy however has

found in the Oriental writers, and particularly in the Rouzat Assafa, of Mirkhond, materials to supply the deficiency. It was founded about the year 1102 by one of those *daïs*, or missionaries, whom the Ishmaelians sent out under various pretexts, but for the secret purpose of propagating their doctrines, and making proselytes. His name was Hassan, the son of Ali, a man of little note, devoted to a religious life, but whose orthodoxy was suspected. After various vicissitudes, the young Hassan, having begun to distinguish himself, appears to have thought it necessary to claim an illustrious birth; and accordingly he gave himself out as the descendant of Mohammed ben Sabbah Homeiri, a person celebrated for his virtues, and to whom even miracles were ascribed. Hence he was frequently called Hassan ben Sabbah, and is generally known by this name.

Hassan, persuaded that the imamate, or legitimate succession to all the spiritual and temporal authority, transmitted by Ali, to the imams of his race, resided in the person of the Fatimite khalif reigning in Egypt, repaired to that country, to pay his homage to the vicar of the deity, probably not without hopes of reaping the reward of his zeal. His success at first appeared answerable to his hopes, and he even became the favourite of the khalif Mostanser; but being afterwards driven from his court, and obliged to quit Egypt, by the intrigues of his enemies, he fled to Syria, and thence into Persia, which he traversed as a *daï*, every where making proselytes to his sect. After seven or eight years preaching he had procured a great number of followers; and at length by stratagem and bribery made himself master of the fortress of Alamout, which belonged to the Seldjuk sultan, Melik Shah. The sultan sent some troops to expel him; but Hassan maintained possession of it, though with a small garrison; and, Melik Shah dying, he remained master of Alamout and the surrounding territory. From this spot he rapidly enlarged his sect by means of his *daïs*, and with it his power; and reigned thirty five years, without ever quitting his fortress. At his death, in 1441, he nominated a suc-

cessor, whose descendants retained the sovereignty of Alamont; and the other places conquered by the Ishmælians under his reign. After the death of Hassan, they extended their conquests into Syria, where their power was destroyed in 1290 by Sultan Bibars; as it had been in Persia by the Mungals under Hologon in 1255, when Alamont was destroyed, and the race of Hassan's successors massacred. The sect however was not wholly extinguished, for it subsists even to the present day.

But what was the origin and signification of the name of assassins, under which these sectaries are mentioned by the historians of the Croisades? This name has been written and pronounced in different ways. The chief variations are Assassini, Assessini, Assissini, Heissini, and Haussacis. The last two have the advantage of retaining the aspirate, which the original word must have had. The etymology has been varied more than the orthography. Casseneuve derives it from a Teutonic word signifying a cutlass; Hyde from an Arabic word implying to exterminate; J.S. Assemani from the name of a city; Falconet from that of a mountain, signifying the mountain of a poniard; Reiske hesitates between a corruption of Hassan, the founder of the dynasty, and the Arabic word for a spy; Abbe S. Assemani derives it, by transposing some letters, from a word implying a rock, or strong hold. Menage, in his Etymological Dictionary, quotes the authority of a Protestant clergyman, Stephen Lemoine, for its being derived from an Arabic word implying herbs, pastures; so that king of the Assassins would be equivalent to king of the pastures. This, according to M. de Sacy, is nearest the truth. Haschisch, in Arabic, signifies, not a pasture, but an herb; and, by way of eminence, hemp,* as also the inebriating preparation of it used in the east: and it is natural to infer, that, from their being accustomed to intoxicate themselves with this preparation previous to the

desperate acts they were known, to perform, they were called, in the plural, Haschischin.

M. de Sacy afterward explains other names, that have been given to the Ishmælians, or Assassins, by Oriental writers. That of Bateni, or Batenians, for instance, implies "Partisans of the inward sense;" for they teach, that every thing outward, as forms of worship, precepts of the law, creeds, &c. have an inward sense; and that all revelation has an allegorical meaning.

Some have lately confounded them with the Nobâiris, and with the Druses. M. de Sacy shows, that this is an anachronism, for both these sects existed previous to the Haschischin, or Assassins. He points out too the origin of M. Venturi's mistake, when he asserts, that the chief of the Druses was the person, whom the historians of the Croisades call the old man of the mountain. He afterward quotes a passage from Mirkhond, who, speaking of the Ishmælians, employs the appellations of rafik, dâis, and fedâis; and he infers from the context, that the Rafiks were the members of the sect at large; the dâis, the clergy; and the fedâis, those particularly devoted to the ministry. The last of these he supposes were alone called properly Haschi-clin, from being disposed by the use of Haschisch to pay blind and implicit obedience to the commands of the chief.

The remotest period of the French history, that of the conquest of Gaul by the Franks, appears in some sort problematical: for how could Clovis, the king of a single tribe of the Franks, and leader of a small army, vanquish the Romans, who were masters of Gaul, and subjugate the Gauls, a warlike people, long formidable to the Romans themselves? These questions M. *Levêque* has endeavoured to answer in a paper on the events, which took place after the conquest of Gaul by Julius Cæsar, and previous to that of the same country by Clovis. In this he enumerates all the causes, that tended

* Al haschisha, the herb, is supposed by some to be an abridgment of the ex-

pression, "the herb of fakirs," these devotees making great use of it previous to the performance of their strange tricks.

in succession to weaken the Gauls. The first and chief of these was their subjugation by Cæsar. During the nineteen years that this war continued, the number of Gauls slain or disabled amounted on the most moderate calculation to fifteen hundred thousand. Suppose we take it only at a million, this is one third of all who were capable of bearing arms, for the whole population at that time is reckoned only at nine millions. After that we readily trace in history the commotions that agitated different parts of Gaul; risings in favour of the pretenders to the purple, while other parts furnished the emperors with numbers of loyal troops; the invasion of a formidable multitude of barbarians in the time of Aurelian; the bloody and destructive war of the peasants, or Bagaudæ; and the various circumstances, that for more than three centuries prevented the country from being at peace and repeopling itself. It was still worse when the barbarians of the north began that war of extermination against the Roman empire, which ultimately subverted it, and of which Gaul was frequently the theatre. The Allemanni, a warlike confederacy, as it is said, of all the German tribes, the Visigoths, the Burgundians, and afterwards the Huns, ravaged it in succession. The invasion of the Huns, though terrible, was indeed transient; but the others did not confine themselves to despoiling the country, they conquered from the Romans considerable districts, and settled themselves in them; the Franks who came after them, had only to subjugate the feeble remains, that still owned the sway of the Romans.

The Franks first appear in history as a formidable confederacy of Germanic tribes, sometimes making incursions into Gaul with success, at other times repulsed, till we find them united under one king named Pharamond, of whose actions nothing authentic is recorded. His successor Clodio, engaged the Romans under the command of Ætius; but we have barely room for conjecture, that he was victorious. Of Merovæus too, we know scarcely any thing but the name, for M. Levéque, questions very thing, that the historians ascribe

to him. He is of opinion, however, that this king of the Franks extended his dominions to the Seine; and that his reign was not inglorious, since he gave his name to the first dynasty of the Franks in Gaul. Childeric, his son, enjoyed a higher reputation for courage, than for probity. He freed Gaul from the Saxons, who had ascended the Loire as far as Orleans, and taken and sacked that city. He came up with them at Angers in their retreat, and almost wholly destroyed their army. If he retained his conquest as we have reason to presume he did, his dominions must have extended at least from the Scheldt to the Loire; and he may be considered as the real founder of the kingdom of the Franks in Gaul. It is not difficult now to conceive, how, after his death in 481, it was easy for Clovis, in the feeble state of the Roman empire, to extend and establish on a firm basis the dominions conquered for him by his father.

Amid the obscurity of the early history of modern nations, tradition frequently gives an importance to monuments that of themselves would attract but little attention. Previous to the French revolution, there were on the road from Paris to St. Denis, some gothic pillars, surmounted with crosses, and placed irregularly on both sides of the avenue. Felibren, in his History of the Abbey of St. Denis, says, on the authority of an ancient chronicle, that Philip the Bold, when he returned from Africa with the bones of his father, Lewis IX. would bear them to St. Denis himself, amid the train of priests assembled on the occasion; that he was obliged to rest himself seven times on the road; and that these crosses mark the places where he rested. M. Brial, without contesting the fact, that Philip did bear the bones of his father, or even that he rested at these places, affirms that the crosses existed long before. He finds them noticed by Suger in his life of Lewis the Fat. This writer says, they were erected to mark the right of toll, and other seigniorial rights, granted to the abbey by former kings, and confirmed by Lewis in 1124.

In another paper M. Brial communicates, from a manuscript of the 12th

century, some particulars of two grand offices under the crown of France, the *chancelier*, and *grand-sénéchal*. The author is Hugh de Clair, of a noble family in Anjou, who was sent by Foulques V. count of Anjou, to negotiate his restoration to the office of Grand Sénéchal, with Lewis the Fat. Lewis having just received a complete defeat at Branneville from Henry I. King of England, stood so much in need of the assistance of his vassals, that the application was quickly successful.

Another paper of *M. Brial*, explanatory of a letter written by Yves de Chartres in the twelfth century, is little interesting.

In the next paper *M. Boissy D'Anglas*, proves from authentic documents, that the treaty of peace of Vervins, concluded in 1599, was duly registered by the parliament of Paris, which Voltaire and others had questioned, and a recent historian has positively denied.

M. Pastoret, who is charged with the continuation of the Collection of Ordinances of the kings of France, read a discourse on the public revenues of France, from the commencement of the third race to Lewis XI.

The nature and elements of public eulogies might appear foreign to the studies of the class, were they not connected with it by the consideration of what they were among the ancients. At the same time this species of writing is too frequently called for among us, by and and solemn occasions, not to lead to a desire to establish the limits, within which our praise should be confined, and to determine how far censure is allowable. Induced by these motives, *M. de Lisle de Salas* has considered the subject. His leading principle is, that the eulogies of men, who have led a public life, should not be panegyrics, and that historical truth should be their basis. Among the ancients Cornelius Nepos, Plutarch and Tacitus, are the only writers of this kind worthy to be taken as models. *M. de Lisle* would class the accounts to be given of the deceased members of learned societies in the following manner: a literary life, for great

writers; an historical essay for the modest man, who has written but little, and been more ambitious of the esteem of his associates; and a history properly so called, for the public character, whom fame has placed in the rank of great men. With regard to avoiding censure of a man lately dead, he observes, that, if truth be any where admissible, it is when it can affect nothing but senseless ashes; and if the grave be a sacred place, so much the more ought it to be the inviolable sanctuary of truth.

The different committees of the class have continued their labours with assiduity. That of the historians of France is preparing the sixteenth volume of its collection; that of the ordinances of the French kings, its fifteenth. That of the literary history of France, though not established much above a year, will soon publish a quarto volume, the thirteenth of that history. The committee of medals and inscriptions will finish the first volume of the Medallic History of his majesty the Emperor, this year, 1809.

Among the works printed and published by members of the class, are the fourteenth volume of the Collection of Historians of France by *M. Brial*. The thirteenth, which he published last year, 1808, contained historical letters of Popes and other dignitaries, who participated in the government of church or state, in the last forty years of the 11th century: the present brings these documents down to the year 1190. The editor has endeavoured to ascertain the dates of such letters as are without any, and has accompanied them with explanatory notes. *M. de Choiseul Gouffier* has published the first part of the second volume of his Pictorial tour through Greece. *M. Millin* has issued the twelfth number of his Collection of Designs from Antique Vases, vulgarly called Etruscan. This completes the first of the two volumes, of which it is to consist. *M. Gregoire*, in his Literature of the Negroes, has noticed every thing that has been done by these despised people, in the different walks of literature and the arts. *M. Dupont de Nemours* has presented to the class

several volumes of the works of Turgot, edited by him. The life of this statesman will occupy another volume, and a ninth will contain his lighter performances.

Of the Correspondents of the class *M. Riboud* has read a general account of the monuments and antiquities of the department of the Ain. *M. de Guignes* has read an answer to some criticisms on his *Ancient History of China*, in his *Voyage to Peking*; and an *Historical account of the Chinese Astronomy* from the most ancient times to the year 776 B.C. *M. Silvester de Sacy* read a report from the committee on the plan of a *Chinese Dictionary*, which *M. de Guignes* is to publish. *M. Levrier* has shown, that a pretended charter of Lewis VII. dated 1174, is a forgery. *M. Charles Villers* has published his translation of Professor Heeren's prize essay on the influence of the *Croisades*: a view of the universities and system of public education in Protestant Germany, particularly in the kingdom of Westphalia: and his report to the institute on the present

state of ancient history and literature in Germany. Another correspondent has sent a description of the *Basbawlik of Bagdad*, where he has long resided. This fine country, ravaged, since the fall of the *Khalifs*, by *Tartars*, *Persians* and *Turks*, but still retaining some traces of its ancient magnificence, is now threatened by the formidable and fanatic sect of the *Wahabees*. The author adds an account of this sect, which sprung from that of the *Carmatians* about half a century ago, has successively subjugated all the tribes, and has attained such importance, as to spread affright from the *Persian Gulf* to the confines of *Syria* and *Ceziren*.—These fanatics have drawn the sword against all religions, but more especially against all other *Muslimans*, as corrupters of the true religion of *Mohammed*. With this *M. de Sacy* has printed some other pieces, particularly an account of the *Yasidees*, a sect actuated by similar principles, though as ancient as the first century of *Mohammedanism*.

DISCOVERIES AND IMPROVEMENTS IN ARTS, MANUFACTURES, &c.

Patent of Mr. Mark Isambard Brunel of Portsea, for a new mode of cutting Veneers, or thin board, by Machinery.

Dated Sept. 1806.

THE machinery for cutting veneers, consists of a frame, for supporting the wood to be cut, capable of being elevated, and of being moved forwards or backwards as required, and of a cutter, which has a to and fro motion longitudinally; that enables it to separate the veneer, as the timber is forced against it.

The frame is elevated by four screws rising from a cast-iron carriage, that slides in rails at right angles to the cutter; each of these screws has a toothed wheel at its head, and they come sufficiently near, to admit of the action of an endless screw, placed at each extremity of a horizontal axis, so that, on turning it round the four elevating screws are made to revolve,

and raise the bed which they support. The two elevating screws at one side of the endless screw, are right hand screws, and those at the other side, are left hand screws; and the spindle of the endless screw is furnished with handles proper for turning it to the degree required for each veneer.

The motion of the frame towards the cutter and back again, is given by a screw acting on a rack, at right angles to the cutter, so that by turning a wheel at its head, the carriage, with the frame and the timber it supports may be moved towards the cutter, and drawn back again, to admit of the timber being raised to take off another veneer.

The cutter consists of either a single piece, or of several, screwed to a frame which is moved back and forwards (by mill-work) before the timber horizontally along two rails;

which as they have to sustain great force, are connected by brackets to a hollow cylinder of cast iron, like a beam, that is fixed above them, which is itself supported by two standards, that rise from the platform on which the whole rests, and to which they are firmly bolted. The sliding frame of the cutter is connected with the mill work by an iron rod. Instead of the long cutter mentioned, a narrow one managed in a similar way, may be also used, according to the specification.

In order to sharpen the cutter a *lap* (or sharpening stone) is placed in the front of the frame, which carries the timber, in such a manner, that it can be raised by screws towards the cutter, under which it is brought by drawing back the carriage as much as necessary.

The timber to be cut, is placed with its side towards the cutter a little obliquely, and lies in a horizontal direction of course, as well as the cutter; it is fastened to the frame, on the bed which supports it, by cement or glue, in which latter case, the top of the bed should be covered with wood. The slider being supposed in motion, the workman attending the engine adjusts at first the table to a proper degree of elevation, propels the carriage by turning the screw placed for that purpose, and guided by the apparent effect of the cutter, continues to force forward the carriage until the veneer is entirely separated; he then moves the carriage back, by turning the screw the other way, and prepares for another cut by elevating the bed that sustains the timber, by the means already described.

Observations.... By this engine a quantity of veneers can be procured from an equal bulk of timber, nearly double that produced by sawing, as the stuff lost by the action of the saw (which is very considerable in cutting veneers) is all saved by its effect.

Besides this it also saves the expense of planing the veneers, for they come from the engine sufficiently smooth to require nothing but polishing to finish their surface, when used on any kind of furniture. The writer

from inspection can also assert that in every other respect they are at least fully equal to sawed veneers if not superior.

Patent of Mr. Augustus Frederick De Heine of Burr-street, East Smithfield, London, for Improvements in Printing and Stamping Presses. Dated Feb. 1810.

Mr. De Heine's engine for pressing is intended as a substitute for a screw: and the mechanical arrangement which produces the power required is effected by moveable wedges passing over fixed ones, the former being attached to the lower end of a cylinder capable of being turned round by a lever, and the latter being fixed to the upper end of another cylinder which possesses only an ascending and descending motion; the two cylinders are placed vertically one over the other, and a spindle from one passes a sufficient length into a hole prepared for it in the centre of the other, to keep them connected together steadily in their proper positions. Only two wedges are attached to the faces of the cylinders, but it is obvious more may be used if required. These wedges the Patentee calls *sectors*, and states that either two sectors, a sector and a cylinder, or a sector and roller, may be placed, in his engine, to act against each other. It is obvious from their position on the extremities of cylinders, that their terminations laterally must be circular.

Observations.... Where it is only required that the compressing power should move a little way (as is the case in printing, and in stamping various articles of metal, and other substances) Mr. De Heine's engine may be very well used instead of the screw; and as it can be made much cheaper, is so far advantageous. It also admits of having greater surfaces brought into action conveniently than the screw, so as to be capable of greater strength at a much less cost; but as the extent of its motion back and forwards must be very limited, the number of purposes besides those mentioned, will be of course but few, to which it can be applied beneficially.

On the water proof composition of Chalk, Tar and Sand, for covering roofs, and its introduction into Ireland, by Mr. William Bevens.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HEAD OF ARTS, MANUFACTURES, &c. FOR THE BELFAST MAGAZINE.

SIR,

In answer to your's of the 8th inst. wherein you request to know the particulars concerning the tar composition for roofing houses, and also an account of the first introduction of it into Ireland, I don't know that I can do any thing better than to give you the same directions that I have given to other people. The composition was a discovery of Lord Stanhope's, who covered his own house with it, about thirty years ago; it has been frequently used at different places in England of late years, by Mr. Nash the architect, and was first introduced into Ireland by him in covering Killymoon castle. He sent over a person on purpose to do it, who had been instructed, by Lord Stanhope's man. Mr. Agnew of Kilwaughter sent a person to Killymoon to learn the art, and covered part of his house with it, and I understand that he has instructed a man of the name of Gillmore, who I have been told has done a good deal of it in Belfast, but I understand that he has made some alterations in the manner of doing it, whether it will be any improvement or not, time will show. Mr. Nash has an invariable rule never to let any but men of experience do it. For although it appears very simple, it requires a great exactness, and a deal of attention to be paid to it; there have been some gutters done with it, but it is not recommended for them, and never used for that purpose in England; I would never recommend any person to try it from written instructions, for as it is a most invaluable discovery, it would be a great pity that it should get a bad name by falling into the hands of inexperienced men. I am Sir, your obedient servant, William Bevens.

DIRECTIONS FOR THE TAR COMPOSITION.

If you are going to cover a house with a flat roof, you must put in

joists as for a lead roof; if the bearing should be long, you must have trussed beams; give the roof a fall of 2 inches in 8 feet; on the joists put battins, 2 inches broad, and $\frac{1}{2}$ thick; which must be laid half an inch asunder; then cover the battins with slates, bedded in mortar; tiles are in general used in England, but I prefer slates, and they are easiest got in this country; the composition is laid on in two coats, the first consists of tar and chalk only, and is called the skimming coat, and the last the finishing coat; the first consists of 3 measures of chalk to one of tar, with as much sand stirred into it as you can; the chalk must be perfectly dry, pounded very fine, and sifted through a fine sieve; the sand must be of three grists, the coarsest about one eighth of an inch, and the finest to be quite fine, it should be sifted through two sieves, one of an eighth of an inch mesh, and the other quite fine so as to take the dust out, great care must be taken in setting the boiler, that the fire does not touch it, for if the flame touches the pot it burns the tar; the fire had therefore best be brought round the sides of the pot alone (by a flue) and not be set under the bottom at all; the tar and chalk should be measured and mixed in a box. The boiler may be nearly filled with it then for the first coat, but for the last coat one third of the boiler must be kept vacant for sand; when it is all in, put on a good fire, and keep stirring it with an iron server (made like a small spade) there is no limited time for boiling, but perhaps three or four hours, will be about sufficient; to know when it is done, dip a bit of slate into it and put it into cold water to cool; when if done, you can make a slight impression on it with your thumb-nail, but not with your thumb; an ironing stove should be ready heated, to make the trowels hot, while the composition is boiling; which when ready must be spread out as thin as you can, and as fast as possible, letting it run into every crevice. The composition will boil up quite thin if the tar be good. This coat will turn water for some time; over it lay the finishing coat,

the composition for which is exactly the same, and to be boiled the same time as directed in the skimming coat, and when done the sands to be put in and mixed well up with the server; put in the sand plentifully for you can scarcely put in too much; mix all well up; when done draw the fire, leaving only as much as will warm the servers and pots (for carrying it up to the roof) some trowels must be quite warm or the stuff will not spread; it must be spread half an inch thick, taking care to smooth the joinings well down, so as to make them disappear, which can only be done with a hot trowel; a small fire should be put under the boiler at first to keep the servers warm for mixing the chalk and tar.

Observations... The person alluded to, by Mr. Bevens, as having instructed Mr. Gillmore, in making the composition, is (we have reason to suppose from a letter received on the subject) Mr. Neilson; who has been "for the last four years in the employment of Edward Jones Agnew esq. of Kilwaughter, managing and superintending his buildings."

As it appears from the last mentioned letter, that some mistakes have arisen relative to a paper in No. 19 on the same subject, it is thought proper to state that its insertion did not originate from any application of Mr. Gillmore, that the gentleman who wrote it had no acquaintance with him, and merely mentioned his name as an attentive workman, who had executed the work mentioned in a substantial and satisfactory manner; that the information was procured at his desire by a friend of his, from Mr. Gillmore; and that had the names or the works of other persons who were equally well acquainted with the composition, been known at the time, they would have been as willingly mentioned as his, and that the only motive which the writer had for the publication, was the service of the public, in conveying to them useful information on such subjects; which if it is part of his business to do, having undertaken to

prepare the head of discoveries and improvements in arts, manufactures, &c. for this magazine; which head he has compiled, and furnished the remarks for since last August. Steps were taken shortly after the publication of No. 19, to procure information from Mr. Bevens on the subject by the intervention of a friend of his, as soon as it was known that he was concerned in the introduction of the composition into Ireland, and if this information could have been got sooner it would have been inserted before this.

It is hoped this plain statement of facts, will prevent in future the person who sent the letter alluded to, from mistaking his own conjectures for proofs, and induce him to make some inquiries as to the circumstances he thinks fit to descant on, before he again attributes to the writers for this work, motives for their publications, which never even were subjects of their imagination.

Method of constructing houses with earthen walls by Mr. Robert Salmon of Woburn.

Trans. Soc. Arts, v. 27.

This method is that which has long been practised in France, under the denomination of *pise* building; in it earth is rammed in between molds, as shall be described, to form the walls, and the molds are withdrawn and elevated to form new portions of it till the whole is completed. Mr. Salmon's improvements on the French plan, consist principally in using iron bolts for connecting the sides of the molds, instead of wooden ones, and in fastening them with iron keys, instead of with ropes drawn tight by twisting them with levers.

The sides of Mr. Salmon's molds consist each of leaves twelve feet long, twenty inches broad, and one inch thick, the boards of which are grooved and tongued together, and are connected and strengthened by several pieces of wood nailed across them. Holes are made through these pieces of wood, at top and bottom (guarded by iron plates to prevent them from wearing) to receive iron bolts, which hold the two frames parallel to each other, fourteen or sixteen inches a-

sunder, which is the thickness of the wall intended to be formed between them. The bolts have each a large head at one end, and a key passes through the other, to keep the frames together: two boards of the breadth of the thickness of the wall, are placed between the frames at the ends, to form the extremities of the mold; these boards are placed between two bolts, which come close to them, at top and bottom.

When a wall is to be built, the foundation is laid in brick work or stone, and carried up about nine inches above the ground, and upon this the frames are placed, and bolted together. When the mold is filled with earth, and well rammed down, the keys are to be taken out of the bolts, and the bolts drawn out: the frames are then to be removed, and put together again, a length farther upon the wall, the bolts at the end being put through the holes left in the wall, only one of the end boards is now put in, and the ramming proceeds as before. In this manner straight walls may be built of any length, and when the lower course is finished, then the mold may be taken to pieces, and be put together again upon that course; the lower bolts of the frame being put through the bolt holes, which the upper bolts made in the wall, in the first operation, to insure the upper part of the wall being exactly over the lower. When a wall is built thinner than usual, a block of wood must be placed before the head of each bolt, so as to diminish the space between the planks.

When the angle walls of a building are to be made, four of the frames are to be put together so as to form a right angled mold. One end of each frame is furnished with double bolts (as before described) the other end of each has two eye-bolts fixed into it; then a bolt connects the two molds, so as to form a hinge; the frames are kept together so as to be perpendicular to each other, by a long iron rod hooked into eye-bolts fixed in frames. The outside frames of the mold are joined together in a different manner, one of them is longer than the other, and has two

pair of holes made through its end to receive bolts, which are fastened to the ends of the shorter frames, and the keys are put through the ends of the bolts to secure the planks together. A piece of wood is occasionally put between the end of the short frame and the side of the other, to increase the space between the planks, to make a thicker wall, the two bolts at the end of the plank being received into notches in the piece of wood, and these bolts are then put through the holes prepared for them in the long frames. In building the angle walls, it is necessary that the vertical joints formed between each mold, should not be over one another, but arranged in the same manner as the joints of brickwork; this is accomplished by making the lower course of wall upon the brickwork only half the length of the mold; which is done by placing the end board of the mold in the middle of it. The next course over this is to be made the whole length of the mold, the ensuing one only half, and so on till the whole is finished.

Pieces of wood $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch square, and the length of the thickness of the wall, are placed across over the upper bolts to keep the frames apart; in the first course they are used at the lower bolts also, but after this is finished they are only necessary at the upper ones.

When one course is carried round the building it frequently happens that the top becomes too dry to attach the succeeding course, and therefore it is advisable, that as soon as the frame is set for the succeeding course, a small quantity of thick grout, composed of one-sixth lime, and four-fifths earth, be poured on the top of each course immediately before the first layer of earth is put in. A very small quantity is sufficient and will add much to the strength of the work, by cementing the courses well together at the joints. The workman should also, with the corner of the rammer, in ramming home to the upright joints, cut down a little of that part of the wall up to which he works; this will make the upright

joins key together, and unite in a solid manner.

The earth proper for this work, should be a due mixture of sand and clay. Clay by itself is particularly objectionable, as is also chalk, or calcareous earth of any sort. The coarser the earth is the better. When used it should retain no more moisture than just to make it adhere together, under the pressure of the fingers. Those earths which abound with a mixture of grit or fine gravel are generally the best; as much earth should be put in each layer as to form about an inch and a half when compressed by ramming.

The rammer should not be more than half an inch wide at the edge, in order that it may more forcibly compress every part of the earth, which a flat rammer would not do so well.

In making the walls, about three inches in thickness of loose earth should be put in each course, which done, the same by means of a trowel made for the purpose, is drawn back and cleared from the face of the wall, and the space is then filled up with the facing composition, forming on an average about one inch in thickness. The common facing stuff is composed of lime one part, and earth, the same sort as used for walling, three parts. The lime and earth mixed and slacked together the same as for mortar. The more it is slacked and wetted the better, provided time can be allowed for it again to dry and pulverise, so as to be fit for ramming. The better sort of facing stuff may have a small quantity more lime in it.

The proper season for this work is when the earth can be got sufficiently dry for the purpose; the more early in the year the better, in order to give it time to dry before finishing; or if late it would be advisable not to finish till the year after it is built.

Windows and doors may be left in the walls wherever wanted, by fixing the head of the mold and carrying up quoins to form them: in erecting which some bond timbers should be laid in coarse mortar, and rammed in with the earth. Lintels may also be laid at the proper height. But if

many windows and doors of a size are wanted, it will be best to make some frames of rough boards, of width equal to the thickness of the walls, to be placed in the situation of the windows and doors. When done the earth is rammed up to them, laying lintels over them, and bond timber at the sides, which should be as thin as possible to prevent chasms between the earth and timber, in their drying and shrinking. The bond timber may be about 4 inches by 1½ in thickness, floor or wall plates 6 inches by 2; and lintels about 4 inches thick; any slabs or rough stuff may be used, the earth being sure to ram close to it, and keep it in its place.

For common cottages, when the walls are up and covered in, the holes should be stopped with very coarse mortar, made the same as the facing stuff, but wetter, and the wall then be lime washed over with lime, and sharp sand, which should be made up in small quantities, and used while hot; which may be done by adding a knob of lime to sand a little at a time as it is used.

For better sort of cottages, the better kind of facing stuff may be used, and then the whole may be lime whited as before mentioned.—But if it be required to make the finishing as perfect as possible, the following is the best mode: with water and a brush thoroughly wet and soak the face of the wall, for two or three yards in superficies at a time; all which part during the wetting should be rubbed and worked about with a hand float, till the face is rubbed smooth and even; by which the facing composition will form a pleasant and regular colour, and the face become smooth and hard when dry, and not liable to scale off as a coat of plaster would do. This finishing will be still improved by a small quantity of lime being put into the water which is used for soaking the face: and if after the wall is well soaked and rubbed, there be thrown on it with a brush some lime and sand (such as is used for lime whitening) and this also be worked into the face: the surface will then become as perfect and hard as stucco.

Several walls have been made at Woburn, with the above frames in the way described, under the direction of Mr. Salmon; and his own house also was built in this manner about twelve years ago, which is as close, warm and dry in the walls, as if built of brick.

Mr. Salmon computes the expense of a superficial yard of this walling at Woburn, where labour is 1s. 10d. per day, as follows.

Labour in making compositions, ramming, &c.	s. d.
Lime used in the composition, at 8d. per bushel,	2 2
Lime and labour in rubbing and finishing the surface, . . .	3

2 8

If the wall is to be finished at both sides, add

8

Total for walls finished at both sides.

3 4

The great impediment to this work, is the difficulty of getting proper earth for it, as it is not to be found in all places; it is therefore best to make an experiment on a small piece, in any situation, and let it stand only covered at the top, for a winter at least, before more be done.

Care must be taken that the work be well rammed, as if the work is done by task it will be the interest of the labourer to do it slightly, and its perfection depends in a great measure on attention to this point.

Models of the frames and utensils used in making these earthen walls, are deposited at the house of the Society of Arts in London, together with a working drawing, on a scale of an inch to a foot, for the inspection of any person inclined to build in this manner.

The society voted Mr. Salmon a premium of twenty guineas for this communication.

Observations.—It is supposed that this method of building would succeed very well in Ireland, as there are few places in it where proper earth for the purpose cannot be procured, as is proved by the frequency of common earthen walls in most

districts. Some London writers have indeed gone so far as to imply that earthen cottages were peculiar to Ireland, but it is well known that they are full as common in Wales, Cornwall, and Devonshire, in which last county they are used for buildings two stories high, and for garden walls; that they are also common on the Continent, appears from the mode of building which is the subject of this paper, having been introduced into England from France, where it has been practised from a very remote period.

The method of building in frames or molds has not been always confined to the formation of earthen walls; it was formerly practised by the Romans in raising walls of small stones; and the existence of the ruins of some of these buildings to this day, is a sufficient proof of the excellence and durability of the method. The frames and molds used for this purpose were probably of the same nature as those described; and the method which they used in building (as appears from the remains of walls built in this manner) was, after fixing the molds in their proper position, to pack small stones in them in regular courses as close as possible, and then to fill up all the interstices with a fluid composition of hot lime, sand and water, similar to our *grouting*.

As this last method of building is not at present practised, that we know of, its expense comparatively with other modes cannot be stated, but it is extremely probable that it would be found cheaper than any other masonry, wherever building stones, or bricks were scarce and dear, if not in most other situations.

De Luc's electric Column.

Phil. Mag. V. 33, 317

The small bells connected to De Luc's electric column (mentioned in the last number) which were put up on the 14th of March have continued to ring from that day to the 23d, of April, when the account of them was forwarded, with the following intervals of rest: On the 24th of March they ceased to ring for about a minute, and again in the same

day for about three minutes. They were also supposed to have stopped for about half a minute the next day; but this is much doubted. Since that time they have been known once to cease ringing. On the 15th of April, the closet where they are placed was opened, when

the clapper was observed to, vibrate with velocity. It is thought the loudness of the sound is considerable increased of late; also that the vibrations of the clapper are quicker than when the apparatus was put into the closet on the 23d of March.

LIST OF NEW PUBLICATIONS.

RELIGION.

THREE Sermons on the Jubilee; by Rev. C. Buchanan, D.D. 1, the Mosaic Jubilee, 2, the British Jubilee, 3, the true, or Heavenly Jubilee, 3s.

The Grounds on which the Church of England Separated from the Church of Rome, 1s. 6d.

A Commentary on the Old and New Testaments; by Simon Patrick, D.D. Bishop of Ely, 9s.

Christ Divided, a Sermon; by T. E. Middleton, D.D. preached at the visitation at Lincoln, 2s.

POLITICS.

Mr. Capel Loft, on Reform, 1s. 6d.

A Letter to Samuel Whitbread, esq. on the Military Conduct of Lord Wellington, and on the Marquis of Wellesley's government in India; by Britannicus, 4s.

The Reformist's reply to the "State of Parties" of the Edinburgh Review, 1s. 6d.

Notes on the minutes of the Court Martial for the trial of Admiral Lord Gambier, 8s. 6d.

MEDICINE, SURGERY, &c.

Essay on Warm and Vapour Baths, with hints for a new mode of applying heat and cold for the cure of Diseases; by Edward Kentish, M.D. 6s. 6d.

The 2 vol. of the Annual Medical Review and Register for 1809, 12s.

Observations on Indigestion, showing the efficacy of Ipecacuanha in relieving it, translated from the French of M. Daubenton; by Dr. Buchan, 1s. 6d.

A Letter to Dr. Haygarth, on the Contagious nature of the Fever of Grenada; by Dr. Crishohn, 6s.

Tabular views of the Anatomy of the Human body; by Dr. Aysford, 10s. 6d.

An Essay on the nature of the Malignant Contagious Ulcer, as it generally appears in the British Navy; by Surgeon Little, 2s. 6d.

BOTANY.

An Introduction to the study of Cryptogamous Plants; by Kurt Sprengel, M. D. Professor of Botany at Halle, 9s.

ELFASR MAG. NO. XXII.

A Synoptical Compound of British Botany, from the class Monandria, to Polygamia, arranged after the Linnaean System; by John Galpine, A.L.S.

POETRY.

Hope, a poetical Essay; with various other Poems; by Miss Balfour, Newtownlimavaddy, 1 vol. 8vo. 5s. 5d. larger impression, 6s. 6d.

Dramatic and Miscellaneous Poems; by John Earl of Carysfort, 1 l 1 6.

The Times, a Poem, 2s. 6d.

Marion Travestied; a Tale of Modern times; by Peter Pry, esq. 12s.

The Pleasures of Friendship, a Poem; by Frances Arabella Rowden, 7s.

The Sabine Farm; a poem.

The Associate Minstrels, 7s.

Poems, consisting of the Mysteries of Mendip, the Magic Ball, Sonnets, &c. by James Jennings, 7s.

NOVELS TALES AND ROMANCES.

Tegg's collection of Gothic Tales and Romances, No 1, 6d.

Tegg's Miniature Novelist; The man of Feeling; The Man of the World; Paul and Virginia; Indian Cottage, 6d. each.

The Prison of Mountain, or Times of Terror, 6s. MISCELLANEOUS.

Naval Considerations, upon the letters of Lord Melville and Mr. Rose, relative to the construction of a Naval Arsenal at Northfleet, 2s.

A letter on the British and Foreign Bible Society, 2s.

The History of the Inquisitions, including the Secret Transactions of these horrid tribunals, 1 l 12 6.

A Statement of Facts delivered to Lord Minto, on his arrival at Madras; by W. Petrie, esq.

Five Letters to Sir Samuel Romilly, on his motion respecting the Penal Laws; by Ante Draco, 2s. 6d.

A Treatise on the Breeding and Management of Live Stock; to which are added, Directions for making Cheese and Butter, curing Hams, Pickling Pork, and tongues, &c. 1 l 4 0.

A A a

Hassel's Drawing Magazine, No. 1, with four views from nature, 6d.

A letter to the Conductor of the Critical Review on the subject of Religious toleration, 1s. 6d.

Epistles on Women, Exemplifying their Character, and Condition, in various ages and nations; by Lucy Aiken, 12s.

Memoirs of the Life and Writings of Sir Philip Sydney; by Thomas Zouch, D.D. 1.1 5 0.

The High price of Bullion, a proof of the Depreciation of Bank-notes; by David Ricardo, 2s. 6d.

Specimens of Ancient Sculpture: by the Society of Dilettanti, vol 1, 181. 18s.

A Treatise on the danger of Travelling in Stage Coaches, and a remedy proposed; by Rev. W. Milton, A.M. 3s.

Advice to Sportsmen, with Anecdotes of the most renowned shots, Hints in the choice of Dogs, Guns, &c. with 16 Engravings; by Rowlandson.

The Analysis of Beauty, by Hogarth, and Rules for drawing Caricatures; with an Essay on Comic Painting; by Francis Grose, F.R.S. 1 vol. 8vo. 15s.

The History of the Life and Reign of Alexander the Great translated from Quintus Curtius, 25s.

The Complete Angler; by Walton and Cotton, with notes, by Sir John Hawkins, and the present Editor, 15s.

Cambria Triumphans, or Britain in its perfect lustre; by Percy Enderbie, gent.

Naufiaga or Historical Memoirs of Shipwrecks, and of the Providential deliverance of Vessels; by James Stanier Clarke, F.R.S. 6s. 6d.

An inquiry into the Effects produced by the Bank restriction bills on the national currency, with plans for maintaining the national coins in a state of perfection and uniformity; by R. Muesbet of his Majesty's mint, 4s.

The Butcher's Book, consisting of printed forms so drawn up, as to be of great assistance to the trade, 3s.

The County Annual Register, containing the Domestic Annals of the various counties of England, 1 vol. 8vo.

A Letter to Basil Montagu, esq. on his remarks relative to a passage on Criminal law in Dr. Paley's works, 1s. 6d.

NOTICE OF BOOKS TO BE PUBLISHED.

SHORTLY TO BE PUT TO PRESS.

A Collection of Psalms and Hymns proper for Christian Worship, and for the use of congregations and families, selected and arranged, by the Rev. A. G. Malcolm, A.M. Presbyterian Minister of Newry; assisted by several judicious friends of the Presbyterian ministry.

The compilation will contain upwards of four hundred Psalms, and Hymns embracing all the principal subjects of Christian faith and practice, and arranged according to their subjects, under proper heads, so as to make the work assume, as much as possible, a regular and connected form. As one considerable object of the compiler is to produce a good family book of devotional compositions in verse, a considerable number of Psalms and Hymns will be introduced, which are particularly adapted to family worship.

MONTHLY RETROSPECT OF POLITICS.

AFFAIRS on the Continent have proceeded in a very even tenor since Bonaparte's second marriage. After fifteen years of warfare, he seems for the first time to divest himself of care and enjoy luxurious repose in the arms of youthful beauty. Is this apparent indifference to the wouled objects of his ambition real or delusive? Can the stern warrior be indeed softened into the uxorious husband; or is it merely a seasonable compliment to his new Empress, and an exercise of his usual policy in order to soothe the irritation, and lull the apprehensions of her father? Whatever may be the

cause, his conduct relative to Spain has created considerable surprise; and we suppose that after the battle of Talavera, had not Lord Wellington judged of the reinforcements coming to that country rather by Bonaparte's usual procedure than by what from appearances has actually taken place, he would have marched forwards to Madrid, and from the specimen they had recently received of the valour of our troops, probably without much farther opposition. The last accounts mention his lordship's having again marched into Spain at the head of 25 or 26,000 troops, and a large body of Portu-

guez, commanded by Marshall Beresford, but we fear it is now too late, and that even the gaining of a battle would only retard for a little the subjugation of Portugal, without benefiting Spain, and at a very disproportionate expense of valuable lives. The accounts we receive of the operations in the Peninsula are rather contradictory; but we can easily collect two things, that the reinforcements to the French armies there, are neither so numerous nor quick in their progress as they were expected to be after peace was concluded with Austria, and, that nevertheless, they are still progressively advancing in the conquest of that country. We might speculate on the time it will require to put Spain and Portugal in the entire possession of the enemy; but it will be better to wait until the course of events renders it a bare statement of facts;—just observing, that Cadiz which was held up as a second Gibraltar, has been greatly reduced from that rank by the reduction of Fort Matagorda, whereby the approaches of the besiegers are considerably facilitated.

As to the other states of Europe, their fate depends in a great measure on the will of Bonaparte, and as he has been quiescent for some months, they have remained quiet also, but will speedily be put in motion when he tires of his present inactivity. Turkey, which still preserves her relations with England, seems alone to engage his attention, as French and Austrian troops are accumulating on her frontiers. The fate of that country is interesting to us, not for itself, but the consequences that must ensue to our eastern possessions, were it soon to become the property of the Imperial triumvirate. These apprehensions, however, are distant; we have dangers nearer and of infinitely greater concern, arising from abuses in the public administration of affairs, the increasing discontents of the people on that account, and a want of confidence in their representatives; which the latter, from some obvious causes, seem both unable and unwilling to regain.

This schism between the commons

and the people is daily widening. With a fair representation of the people, and a house of commons emanating from them, the interests of the electors and the elected could not materially diverge. But the petitions lay open a very different state of things. The people, in the comprehensive sense of that word, have no check whatever over the election of a very numerous body of the members, and even the controul of the people over those supposed to be to a certain degree popularly elected, is very small. The influence of government, either directly or indirectly through landlords and other causes, renders the number of free elections very small indeed. We have the tenants and dependents of some higher dependents, under still higher dependents, rising in almost infinite progression. From these causes, the house of commons is more influenced by the prime minister, who is sometimes only a puppet in the hands of others who pull the wires, than really dependent on the people. Hence arise the jealousies against the assumed privileges of the commons, lest they should be exercised in favour of the encroachments of the prerogative of the crown, rather than against its undue influence, and such is the ground work of the present struggle. As friends to liberty, and advocates for the full establishment of the democratic branch of our government, according to the theory of the constitution, we ardently hope that this struggle may terminate in favour of parliamentary reform on substantial and unequivocal principles, and may never cease until this most important improvement is obtained.

Among the popular proceedings we have in addition to the Westminster meeting, noticed in our last retrospect, to record the resolutions and petitions of the freeholders of Middlesex, and of the livery of London, together with the resolutions of the town of Carmarthen. A long address to Sir Francis Burdett was also voted at the Middlesex meeting, on the motion of Major Cartwright, comprising with some merited eulogiums on the baronet, the Major's plan for

parliamentary reform, and a system of national armed defence. Notwithstanding a sincere wish for reform, and the security of liberty, may it not be permitted to the friends of philanthropy and peace, to express a fear that this system of an armed people would tend to make us too much a warlike nation, and add to the danger already so powerful and likely to prevail, that Europe may relapse into the despotism of military governments, after the model of France?

The advocates for privilege on both sides of the house are rallying, and on this one point coalescing their strength, but there is no appearance of concession to the people. The commons reject the petitions from the freeholders of Middlesex and the livery of London, and ministers reward Charles Yorke by giving to him the place of first lord of the admiralty in addition to the sinecure office of teller of the exchequer. The electors of Cambridgeshire punish him and express their opinion of him by refusing to re-elect him, while ministers afterwards and in defiance reward him. Petitions are rejected because they are not sufficiently submissive; but it cannot be reasonably expected, that the people will not complain when their opinions are so entirely disregarded. The unmeaning lullaby of adulation, or petitions conceived in common-place terms would be unworthy of the cause and the occasion. Freedom speaks a strong language. Colonel Barré gave a virtuous example of spirited opposition in a speech he made in the house of commons many years ago, previous to a secession of the opposition of that day.

It is worthy of record, and is expressed in the following energetic terms;

"Since I had the honour, said Colonel Barré (not to say the dishonour of sitting in this house) I have been witness to many strange, many infamous transactions.

"What can be your intention in attacking all honour and virtue? do you mean to bring all men to a level with yourselves, and to extirpate all honour and independence.

"Perhaps you imagine a vote will settle the whole controversy. Alas! you are not aware that the manner in which your vote is procured is a secret to no man.

"Listen; for if you are not totally callous—if your consciences are not seared, I will speak daggers to your souls, and wake you to all the hells of guilty recollections.

"I will follow you with whips and stings through every maze of your unexampled turpitude, and place thorns under the rose of ministerial approbation. You have flagrantly violated justice and the law of the land, opened a door for anarchy and confusion.

"After assuming an arbitrary dominion over law and justice, you issue orders, warrants and proclamations against every opponent, and send prisoners to your bastille all those who have the courage and virtue to defend the freedom of their country. But it is in vain that you hope by fear and terror to extinguish the native British fire; the more sacrifices, the more martyrs you make, the more numerous the sons of liberty will become; they will multiply like the hydra, and hurl vengeance on your heads. Let others act as they will, while I have a tongue or an arm they shall be free. And that I may not be a witness of these monstrous proceedings I will leave the house; nor do I doubt but every independent, every honest man, every friend to England will follow me.

"These walls are unholy, baleful, deadly, while a prostitute majority holds the bolt of parliamentary power, and hurls its vengeance only upon the virtuous."

The opponents of reform are also zealous out of doors. A partial meeting of the livery of London was called together after the general meeting, but their plan of secrecy was defeated, and the indefatigable Wajthman attended, and succeeded in outvoting them, on their own ground. The minority retreated, and published a counter address as was their indisputable right. Free discussion is all that ought to be desired, and although numbers do not constitute a test of truth, it is pleasing to find as an omen of better times that the great majority is in favour of reform. The party cry of Jacobinism, so successfully employed by Pitt, is losing its force, and reason, after a period of intemper-

tion is returning to assume its sway, these interested and dishonest preferences of false loyalty are losing their hold on the minds of many.

Lord Erskine has advocated the cause of the people in the house of lords on the grounds of law—and a number of the livery of London, headed by the patriotic Sheriff Wood, went in procession to the tower to read to Sir Francis Burdett the resolutions of the livery. These are strong unequivocal proofs that the people do not consider that the house of commons are advocating their cause, or that the privileges of the house are maintained for the benefit of the people as is sometimes asserted in the house. Yet it is doubtful how far the people are prepared to support a cool, steady, deliberate, but persevering opposition to those measures which they consider to be wrong. Some fear it will terminate as the effervescence of the moment. There may be some little inflammation about the head, but are not the body and extremities as cold and torpid as ever?

A feeble opposition without nerve or force can never succeed. To do good effectually, the people must be in earnest, they must have virtuous enthusiasm and not too readily be discouraged by obstacles. We condemn "the right divine to govern wrong," whether advanced in support of the regal power, or as in the present instance by Mr. Ponsonby in defence of exerting the privileges of parliament against the people.

It is a curious fact in the marriage of Bonaparte that the civil marriage preceded the religious contract. By the laws of France marriages duly contracted before the civil legal authorities are valid, and the religious ceremony may be added or not at the option of the parties. This system is wisely adopted upon the liberal plan, that no difficulty should occur in marriage on account of religious persuasions; some conscientiously object to the forms used by the various churches or societies. In England the case is still harder, as there, all must be married with the exception

of Jews and Quakers by a Clergyman of the Church of England.—Every person in France is obliged to appear first, before the magistrate, and then he may go to what religious community he pleases for the completion of his contract if he so inclines, or if he is satisfied with this simple procedure, the contract is valid. Thus perfect religious liberty is in this respect established in France, without any encroachment on the validity of the marriage contract, and it would be well if we were not too proud to borrow from our neighbours.

We are sorry to find that Sir Samuel Romilly's humane and enlightened plans to abridge the list of capital offences has failed for the present. The dread of innovation and resentment against his honest political conduct, have had a momentary triumph, but we look forward to the prospect of success ultimately crowning his humane exertions. Notwithstanding his temporary defeat, this enlightened and liberal senator proceeds in the even tenor of his way, and judiciously couples with his plan, a reform in the system of transportation, and a scheme to employ convicts at hard labour in penitentiary houses.—A plan embracing these three great objects would most materially improve our system of criminal jurisprudence. Sir Samuel's steady perseverance, and his enlightened views of judicial policy, mark a comprehensive mind.

At a meeting of the Common Council of Dublin, a petition to the house of commons for the repeal of the Union between Great Britain and Ireland was agreed to, but being sent to the board of Aldermen for their concurrence, is likely to be cushioned by them. The artifices by which the Union was accomplished, are indefensible, and reflect equal discredit on the grand actor in bribing on the occasion, as well as on those who for themselves, or their relations sold their votes for those bribes. Offices in church and state, and situations of the highest importance, which ought to be kept pure, from the slightest imputations, were according to accretion

ed report, the wages of prostitution on this occasion. Yet still it is by no means clear that Ireland suffers from the effects of the Union. We have not in the Imperial Parliament a more corrupt legislature, and there is less of the irritation of party politics. Dublin may suffer a little, and the retailers of superfluities may loudly complain of the diminution of their sales, but commerce is independent of such feeble aids, and draws very little support from the luxurious classes. The funds of luxury do little, but the capital employed in trade does much to furnish profitable employment to the working classes, and support the independence of a nation. "Princes and Lords may flourish or may fade."

and so may those most immediately dependant on them, but national happiness is built on a more secure basis, and is founded on frugality, industry, and enlightened and well directed perseverance.

Many failures have taken place in Dublin, and by some these have been attributed to the effects of the union. But no—overtrading, and a wish to imitate the foolish votaries of luxury and folly in high life, often multiply bankruptcies, and produce the evils so justly to be deplored.—Live within compass, and moderate ambitious desires, are maxims admirably calculated to promote the real prosperity of nations or of individuals.

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

MEETING OF THE FREEHOLDERS OF MIDDLESEX.

At a numerous and respectable meeting of the freeholders of the county of Middlesex, held at the Mermaid, Hackney, on Thursday the 26th day of April, 1810, pursuant to a requisition, the following resolutions were entered into:

Resolved...That the petition now read be adopted, and that it be presented to the House of Commons by our representatives, George Byng, and William Mellish, esqrs. who are hereby instructed to support the same.

That we highly approve of the proceedings of the Electors of Westminster, at their late meeting; and most heartily concur in the sentiments contained in their

letter to Sir Francis Burdett, and in answer.

That the thanks of this meeting are and are hereby given to Sir Francis Burt for his truly patriotic conduct in Parliament; for his unanswered and unanswerable argument in the case of John Jones, vindicating the rights of the subject, and denying the power of the House of Commons to imprison, without cause, and during pleasure, the people of England; for his letter to the Speaker protesting against the power of the House of Commons to imprison, in like manner, any of their members, for laying before the Constituents a faithful account of his conduct in Parliament, and for his constitutional resistance to the Speaker's warrant whereby he has given a practical illustration of its inefficiency, and has shown it could not be put in force without military aid, a violation of our ancient laws, and a breach of the privileges of Englishmen.

That these resolutions be fairly subscribed, and presented to Sir Francis Burt by the sheriff, accompanied by George Byng and William Mellish, esqrs. our representatives.

That the address to Sir Francis Burt, which has been read, be adopted the act of this meeting.

That the thanks of this meeting be given to George Byng, esq. one of our representatives, for his general conduct in parliament.

That the thanks of this meeting be given to the Sheriffs for their readiness in calling this meeting, and for their judicious and impartial conduct in the chair.

That these resolutions be advertised.
M. Wood, }
JOHN ATKINS. } Sec

TO THE HONOURABLE THE COMMONS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND, IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED.

The petition of the freeholders of Middlesex agreed to in full county the 26th day of April, 1810

Showeth, that we have observed with concern that in the cases of Mr. John Jones and Sir Francis Burt, but, your house assumed and exercised a power unknown to the law and unwarranted by the constitution.

Your Speaker's warrant has been executed by military force—an Englishman's house, his sanctuary, has been violated and the blood of unoffending citizens has been shed in the streets.

Against the existence as well as

exercise of this power, we solemnly protest—a protest the more necessary because your votes in its support are entered in your journals—not so the letter of Sir Francis Burdett to your Speaker, denying you such jurisdiction.

In the early part of this reign, in the case of Mr. Wilkes, the rights of this country and of the nation were repeatedly and grossly violated by the House of Commons. At length the law triumphed. After a struggle of nearly twenty years the house abandoned the pretensions they had asserted, and “expunged” from their journals “all their declarations, orders and resolutions, as being subversive of the rights of the whole body of electors of this kingdom.

You have during your pleasure deprived the citizens of Westminster of their share in the representation, and the public at large of the exertions of a faithful servant, in whose ability, firmness, and integrity, they pre-eminently confide.

We view with jealousy and suspicion the shutting up Sir Francis Burdett in prison, when the attention of the nation is directed with anxiety to his intended motion for a reform in the representation of the people in your honourable house—that house, in which the traffic in seats has been avowed in the case of Mr. Perceval and Lord Castlereagh, “to be as notorious as the sun at noon day;” a practice “at the mention of which,” in the emphatic language of your Speaker, “our ancestors would have startled with indignation.”

“We therefore pray you to follow the example of your predecessors, to “expunge all your declarations, orders, and resolutions on the subject, as tending to the subversion of our liberties,” and to the introduction of a military despotism, and to recall Sir Francis Burdett to the service of the country in Parliament, that he may there enforce that plan of reform which last session he so powerfully recommended, and which in our opinion is absolutely necessary for the stability and honour of the throne and the safety and well being of the people.”

Signed in the name and in the behalf of this meeting by, &c.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE LIVERY OF LONDON. SMITH, MAYOR.

In a meeting or assembly of the Mayor, Aldermen and Liverymen of the several companies of the city of London, in Common Hall, assembled, at the Guildhall of the said city, on Friday, the 4th day of May, 1810.

1. Resolved... That the Livery of London, impressed with the deepest sentiments of alarm, regret, and indignation, at the

late extraordinary and unconstitutional proceedings of the House of Commons, which by the arrest and imprisonment of two of their fellow subjects, have, as they conceive, superseded the laws of the land, and set up in their stead, under the claim of privilege, an undefined, capricious, and arbitrary power, feel themselves irresistibly called upon to express, at a crisis so new, so arduous, and so fatal to their rights and liberties, their unqualified reprobation of measures equally subversive of the first principles of the constitution, derogatory to the real interests and dignity of the House of Commons, and injurious to the honour, glory and happiness of the Sovereign and the People of these realms.

2. Resolved... That it appears to us, that the Commons House of Parliament in committing to prison Mr. John Gale Jones, and in breaking open the house of, and also in committing to prison one of their members, Sir Francis Burdett, bart. for alleged libels upon themselves, offences which, if established were provided against by the laws of the country, have been at once accusers, legislators, judges, jurors, and executioners in their own cause, sheltering themselves under the pretence of privilege and exercising a partial and summary jurisdiction, without redress or appeal.

3. Resolved... That the whole system of British jurisprudence, has been thus shaken to its foundation, and a discretionary power assumed over the liberties of the People, as declared and established by the great charter, repeated and confirmed by the petition of Right and the Bill of Right and recognized, enforced, and illustrated by a multiplicity of statutes.

4. Resolved... That it has been idly and vainly enacted and re-enacted, “That no Freeman may be taken or imprisoned, or to be dis seized of his freehold or liberties, or of his free customs, or to be outlawed, or exiled, or in any manner destroyed, but by the lawful judgment of his Peers, or by the law of the land;” if the House of Commons, which is itself but a single branch of the legislature do, to use the language of the Bill of Rights, against the detestable tyranny, of James II. “by assuming and exercising a power of dispensing with and suspending of laws and the executing of laws without the consent of parliament,” set itself above parliament, making itself greater than the whole, of which it is but a part, dispensing with the laws which gave to all a remedy against commitments by the King himself, and thus erecting itself into a new and monstrous executive, the

more dangerous to the lives, liberties, and fortunes of the Subject, inasmuch as it claims for its rule of action, its own discretion, will or caprice.

5. Resolved...That the true privilege of parliament, meaning nothing more than a protective right, was really designed as an immunity and safeguard, to be wielded as a shield against the encroachments, usurpations and tyranny of the crown; not to be converted into an active power of violating the rights of others, into an instrument of arrogance, and a sword of destruction against the people.

6. Resolved...That the cordial thanks of this meeting be given to that illustrious patriot Sir Francis Burdett, for his upright and independent conduct in Parliament; for his truly constitutional and irresistible argument, disproving the power of the House of Commons to imprison the people of England; and for his legal and manly resistance to the Speaker's warrant, whereby he has given a practical illustration of its inefficiency, and demonstrated that, as there is no legal power without the legal means of execution, it could not be carried into effect without the aid of a standing army, a violation of the ancient laws and rights of Englishmen, and which, in this instance, was so lamentably exemplified in the breaking open of his castle, and so fatally preceded and followed by the murder of peaceable and unoffending Citizens.

7. Resolved...That this Resolution be communicated to Sir Francis Burdett, by the Sheriffs and a deputation of the Livery, who are desired, at the same time, to assure him, that, however grateful his release from arbitrary confinement would prove to the citizens of London, his liberation would be no jubilee to the British people, unless obtained by the triumph of those grand principles which in his person have been so shamefully and flagrantly violated.

8. Resolved...That this meeting would become accomplices in the ruin of their constitution and country, were they to decline stating what appears to them to be the fact, that the House of Commons has repeatedly rejected just and necessary inquiry, screened public delinquents and peculators from punishment, encouraged the scandalous traffic of Seats in their own House, a traffic, "at the mention of which their ancestors would have startled with indignation,"—sanctioned the most profligate waste of the public money, and approved and justified an Expedition, the most numerous, formidable and expensive that ever left the shores of England; but the

most degraded, disgraced and ruinous that ever returned, alike destructive of the genuine energies of the empire, and holding out to the contempt and ridicule of the enemy the folly and imbecility of corrupt and wicked ministers.

9. Resolved...That under all these evils and calamities, these accumulated and accumulating grievances, it appears to this meeting that the only means left to save the constitution and the country from impending ruin, is a reform in the representation of the people in the Common House of Parliament, which to be efficient, must be speedy and radical.

10. Resolved...That the people of the United Kingdom are hereby entreated to co-operate by Petition, Remonstrance, and all constitutional means, in the attainment of this salutary and indispensable object.

11. Resolved...That a petition, founded on these resolutions, be presented to the honourable the House of Commons.

12. Resolved...That the petition now read be fairly transcribed, and signed by two aldermen and twelve liverymen, and presented to the honourable the House of Commons by H. C. Combe esq. Sir W. Curtis, Sir C. Price, and Sir J. Shaw, bart.; and they are hereby instructed, as Representatives of this city, to support the same.

13. Resolved unanimously...That the thanks of this Hall be given to alderman Combe, one of the representatives of this city, for the discharge of his duties, and for his constitutional conduct in parliament.

14. Resolved unanimously...That the thanks of this Hall be given to the right honourable the Lord Mayor, for his impartial conduct this day, and for his upright and honourable conduct as chief magistrate, and his constitutional endeavours to preserve the peace of the city, without aid of the military.

15. Resolved unanimously...That the thanks of this Hall be given to the Sheriffs, for their constitutional endeavours to preserve the peace of the city without the aid of the military.

WOODTHORPE

THE FOLLOWING IS A COPY OF THE
PETITION:

To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled.

The humble address, remonstrance, and petition of the lord mayor, aldermen, and livery of the city of London, in common Hall assembled, this 4th day of May, 1810.

We, the lord mayor, aldermen, and livery of the city of London, in common

Hall assembled, beg leave, with feeling, of the most anxious concern, to present this our humble address, petition and remonstrance, and we earnestly entreat your honourable house to give to it a favourable reception, for how can we hope for redress and relief, if the bare statement of the wrongs and grievances of which we complain, be rejected? We also beg your honourable house to believe that in the language we may have occasion, and are indeed compelled to employ, no offence is intended to your honourable house.

The circumstance which most deeply afflicts us, and which most strongly impels us at this time to approach your honourable house is, what appears to us to have been, on your part, a violation of the personal security of the people of the land. We humbly conceive that, without law, and against law, you have imprisoned two of your fellow subjects, and that without a trial, without a hearing, you have condemned them. Law requires legal process and trial by jury of our equals. Justice demands that no person shall be prosecutor, juror, judge, and executioner in his own cause. We beg leave to express our conviction that this eternal principle of immutable justice cannot be annulled by any house of commons—by any king—by any parliament—by any legislature upon earth. But it appears to us that your honourable house have, in the instances of Mr. John Gale Jones, and Sir Francis Burdett, assumed, accumulated and exercised all these offices.

We feel it a duty which we owe to you, to ourselves, to our posterity, to state that in our conception, this jurisdiction is unfounded, and we humbly, but firmly declare our opinions against the existence of this power in any hands; a jurisdiction unknown, a power above the law, and which could be enforced only by military violence; a violence made manifest by the breaking open of an Englishman's castle, and by the preceding and subsequent murder of peaceable and unoffending citizens.

Permit us humbly to observe, that the construction of your honourable house, prevents our surprise at this conduct of your honourable house. We will not enter into the details, so often and so ably stated to your honourable house, by which it appears, that upwards of three hundred members of your honourable house, in England and Wales only, are not elected by the people, in any honest sense of the word *people*, but are sent to your honourable house by the absolute nomination or powerful influence of a

bout one hundred and fifty peers and others, as averred in a petition to your honourable house in the year 1793, and which remains on your journals uncontroverted. This is the great constitutional disease of our country. This is the true root of all evils, corruptions, and oppressions under which we labour. If it be not eradicated, the nation must perish.

In support of this our sincere conviction, we need only refer to the never to be forgotten vote of your honourable house, refusing to examine evidence on a charge against Lord Castlereagh and Mr. S. Perceval, then two of the king's ministers, for trafficking in seats in your honourable house.

We remember well, that when it was gravely averred, and proof offered, in a petition which stood on your journals, and the complaints thereof unredressed for more than twenty years, "that seats for legislation in the house of commons were as notoriously rented and bought as the standings for cattle at a fair," the then honourable house treated the assertion with affected indignation, and the minister threatened to punish the petitioner, for presenting a scandalous and libellous petition." But we have lived to see a house of commons atow the traffic, and screen those accused of this breach of law and right, because it has been equally committed by all parties, and was a practice "as notorious as the sun at noon day." At this vote and at these practices we feel as "our ancestors would have felt," and cannot repress the expression of "our indignation" and disgust.

Under these circumstances may we not be permitted to ask, where is your justice, where your dignity? Mr. John Gale Jones is confined within the walls of Newgate, for an alleged offence against yourselves, which if committed against any other subjects of these realms, or even against the king himself, must have been adjudged by the established rules and laws of the land! Lord Castlereagh continued to be a principal minister of the crown, and is now a free member of your honourable house! Sir Francis Burdett, dragged by a military force from the bosom of his family, is committed to the tower for exercising the right of constitutional discussion, common, and indeed undeniable to you, to us, to all! Mr. Spencer Perceval continues a member of your honourable house, taking a lead in your deliberations, the first minister of the crown, and the chief adviser of the royal councils!

Under the agonizing feelings excited by the late imprisonment of our fellow-

subjects, can it be necessary for us to recapitulate the many instances, as thus appears to us, of refusals to institute just and necessary inquiry, to pursue to condign punishment public delinquents and peculators, to economize the means and resources of the state, to administer to the people relief and redress for the various disgraces which the national honour has sustained, for the lavish profusion of British blood and treasure, extravagantly wasted in ill-contrived and fruitless campaigns, and more particularly in the humiliating and ignominious expedition to the coast of Holland, in which the greatest armament that ever left our shores, was exposed to the scorn, contempt, and ridicule of the enemy, and the flower of the British army left ingloriously to perish in the pestilential marshes of Walcheren, without succour! without necessity! without object! without hope!

These and similar proceedings of your honourable house require no comment, but we cannot by our silence become accomplices in the ruin of our country, and dare not conceal from you the wholesome though unpleasant truth, that they appeal to us to have materially shaken what remained of the confidence of the subjects of these realms in the wisdom of your honourable house.

We therefore humbly, but firmly entreat you to reconsider your conduct, to retrace your steps, and to expunge from your journals all your orders, declarations and resolutions, respecting Mr. Gale Jones, and Sir Francis Burdett, and that as Sir Francis Burdett has not been expelled from your honourable house, he be no longer prevented from exercising therein all the duties of a member of the same.

Above all we earnestly pray your honourable house, in conjunction with Sir Francis Burdett, and in conformity to the notice he has given, to devise and adopt such measures as will effect an immediate and radical reform in the common house of parliament, and ensure to the people a full, fair and substantial representation, without which they must inevitably cease to exist as a great, a free, a glorious and independent nation.

At a meeting of the burgesses and inhabitants of the county borough of Carmarthen, convened at the Guildhall, on Monday, the 23d of April, 1810, in conformity to a requisition for that purpose.

J. JONES, ESQ. MAYOR, IN THE CHAIR,

It was unanimously resolved,

That it is the opinion of this meeting, that Civil Liberty, the basis of our admirable Constitution, is the birth right of

every Englishman; and that no longer than the free enjoyment of personal security, personal liberty, and private property, remains inviolate, can we be free.

That every man owes obedience to the laws; laws definite and distinct, not left to the caprice of power, but governed by that sacred and solemn palladium of liberty—Magna Charta, which expressly and explicitly declares, "That no free man shall be taken or imprisoned but by the lawful judgment of his equals, or by the law of the land."

That we have observed with alarm and sorrow the late acts of the house of commons, which has assumed to itself undefined privileges and constituted itself the accuser and judge of supposed breaches of the same, thereby claiming a power which cannot be legally assumed by the highest branch of our constitution, and which violates the freedom of the subject, his right to a trial by his peers, and the liberty of the press.

Whilst we fully acknowledge the competency and right of the house of commons to remove all obstructions to its debates, to punish prevarication and contempt, and to adopt and exercise power which necessity may require in unusual and unforeseen cases; we nevertheless declare, that it cannot legally constitute itself a judge of law or fact in any case wherein the ordinary tribunals of the kingdom are competent to decide.

That a judge and jury are the only competent and proper tribunal to try and ascertain whether any publication be libellous or not, and to punish the convicted author of such libellous publication; and whilst we protest in the strongest terms against the functions of a judge and jury being exercised by the house of commons on such an occasion, still more do we deprecate the measures adopted by that house of arresting and imprisoning one of its members for such an alleged offence, and thereby depriving part of the community of its representative in parliament.

That the means resorted to by the servants of the said house, in order to carry into execution the resolutions entered into on these subjects, appear to us highly unconstitutional, inasmuch as the dwelling-house of a fellow-subject has been violated under pretence of enforcing a warrant to which the king was not a party—a violation in direct opposition to the well-known maxim—"That an Englishman's house is his castle."

That every independent member of parliament, who in the honest and conscientious discharge of his duty delivers

is sentiments openly and without dread to his constituents, deserves the respect and approbation of every honourable man;

Resolved,

That convinced of Sir Francis Burdett's honourable motives and conduct, we cannot but join in the sympathy of every true-hearted Briton; and whilst we lament the loss which the country sustains by his detention at this momentous crisis in parliament, earnestly hope that the house of commons will, in conformity with the sense and wishes of the people, quickly restore to the country a zealous and inflexible friend.

That we beg leave to return to Sir Francis Burdett our unqualified thanks for his manly and constitutional conduct on all occasions, and to express a strong hope, amounting even to confidence, that the integrity of a British judge, and the impartiality of a British jury, will secure to him his rights, and with them the rights of Britons.

JOHN JONES, Chairman.

TO SIR F. BURDETT, A PRISONER IN THE TOWER.

The Address of the Freeholders of Middlesex, in full County Assembled.

SIR—With the name of Hampden, consecrated to the eternal gratitude and veneration of Englishmen, for having resisted the illegal exercise of power by a King, the present and future ages will couple the name of Burdett, for having resisted an illegal exercise of power by a house of commons.

To you we are indebted for having caused discussions which have done honour to our age and nation: but such a variety of principles have been shaken in the strange proceedings against you, that the extent of our obligations to you, first, for your constitutional doctrine, and then for your resisting the violators of our constitution, cannot as yet be estimated. We trust the obligations will prove beyond all estimate; as we trust they must terminate in a restoration of that violated constitution.

Whatever, sir, may be the prostitution within certain walls, whatever may be the profligate abuse and percolation of office, we may, however, congratulate our country, that she has yet able defenders of her rights, who with you, are rallying around our two-fold constitution:—a constitution that hath not only a law, which is "the perfection of reason," but whenever that law may meet with lawless opposers, hath also "a sword of its own," without needing to borrow any other, native or foreign, for the sure and resistless enforcement of that law.

Inquiry, sir, is now awake, and at work, reason, founding itself on constitutional principle, hath now to decide, whether, for either keeping the peace, or for enforcing any process of English law, recourse ought to be ultimately had to the county power, or to the standing army: that is, shall the peace and the law of England, be upheld by the civil power, or by a military force?

It is, in fact to be decided, whether governments (whatever be their form, or their current denomination) are not definable to be civil governments, or military governments, that is, free states, or despotisms, as they shall ultimately resort, for execution of their laws, to the civil power, or to a military force.

The county power of England, which has been aptly called the martial branch of the constitution, is yet strictly a civil power, being composed of free citizens only; whereas the standing army is wholly a military force, composed of "soldiers;" who, from the nature of the military law to which they are subject, are not free citizens; and according to Sir W. Jones, "in fact, no more than instruments in the hands of their commanders."

When (as remarked by Blackstone) "the laws and constitution of this kingdom know no such state as that of a perpetual standing soldier;" and when (as observed by Sir W. Jones) the power of the county includes the whole civil state, from the duke to the peasant; while the military state, as such, forms no part of that power, being under a different command, and "subject to a different law; must it not follow, that the law cannot be carried into execution by the standing army? that being an instrument it does not know, an instrument "under a different command," and "subject to a different law."

And when Blackstone, concurring with numberless writers of the highest authority, and with every intelligent man's reflection, also remarks, that "in a land of liberty, it is extremely dangerous to make a distinct order of the profession of arms;" and likewise adds, "in absolute monarchies this is necessary for the safety of the prince, and arises from the main principle of their constitution, which is that of governing by fear," will it be possible sir, any longer to doubt that it is the design of ministers to bring us under an "absolute monarchy," especially when we shall combine together all their arts and all their practices to that end? Do we not hear our English government, by ministers, by court lawyers, and by all abettors of arbitrary power, perpetually called a monarchy, which is a government where

one man's will is the law? Do we not hear our king as constantly styled a monarch. And ever since the dreadful riots in 1780, when Sir. W. Jones took occasion to complain that our county power "had been shamefully neglected, and ought to be restored to full vigour and energy," has not that county power from that day to this, now thirty years, continued in the same shamefully neglected condition, unorganized, unarmed, untrained? And for what conceivable reason can there have been this shameful neglect, but that it might be divested of all power and respect, and then, as a thing useless and contemptible, be wholly superseded in the quelling of riots? And have we not accordingly seen on all occasions the standing army officiously and ostentatiously called forth on every frivolous disorder in the streets, as well as uniformly paraded and held in readiness whenever the people are to have meetings on public affairs, so that the nation, "governed by fear," may quietly yield to "absolute monarchy?"

If, sir we be correct in our conception of the county power, it is as old as the constitution and common law, and vital to our liberties.

The standing army is a novelty of yesterday; and when not constitutionally overbalanced by the county power, "in full vigour and energy," must be dangerous in the extreme to public freedom.

A county power is the sword in the hand of the nation, regulated by the ordinary law of the land. Its sole object self preservation—that is, the preservation of law and liberty.

A standing army is the sword in the hand of the minister; and we have recently seen how prone ministers are to find other objects for this sword than those which should seem to be its only legitimate ones, namely offensive war abroad, and defence of external possessions; because, a species of force which is a comparative novelty, both in principle and practice with our government, as well as utterly unknown to "the laws and constitution," never could have for its object the defence of our island; which, as already shown, was most amply provided for defence in the original institution of our government; since all the county powers collectively must amount to far more than a million of men able to bear arms, and willing to defend their king, their country, and their constitution. The conquests of the standing army abroad, ought only to be over our enemies—its conquests at home, if it be to obey the will of ministers and to have its operations directed by

the analogy of time-serving lawyers, can only be over our laws and liberties.

We would therefore, sir, gladly know, why ministers and parliament do not in obedience to the constitution, and in the honest performance of their own duty, "restore to full vigour and energy", the county power, which, in the very infancy of its organization by the immortal Alfred, freed England of invaders, who had mastered half the counties, or converted those invaders into peaceable and loyal subjects.

And we would also gladly hear the reasons why ministers and parliament, while neglecting a duty so obvious, and so imperious, spare neither pains nor expense—an expense, paid by the people, for adding to our vast standing army, another numerous standing army of Germans, Sicilians, French, Portuguese, and other foreign mercenaries; seeing at the same time, that France is so strong by land, we cannot annoy her by offensive war; and so weak by sea, she cannot even alarm our external possessions in any part of the globe!

A county power, although the resistive arm of the law, being yet a free part of a free community, must know, that to violate law, would be to violate its own liberty; and must ever be alive to the feeling, that, to preserve the common liberty must be the first and most sacred of its duties.

Concerning a standing army, an acute writer asks—"Is it not possible, that these keepers of ours may come to resemble a seraglio, and hate the very name of liberty, when totally deprived of their own?" And, "a standing army," it has been remarked, "ever has converted, and ever must convert, men into machines. The individuals of a standing army, when they receive orders, cast away the judgment, the moral discretion, and the will of rational beings. Obedience with them is the law and the prophets; and he that gives the order, they think, is the only person answerable for it."

Should England's liberties survive the settled establishment of a standing army, she will be the only country on earth which in that predicament, ever remained free. This, as yet unseen phenomenon (the co-existence of a standing army, and liberty) it doubtless is in her power to exhibit to the admiring eyes of mankind;—but, it can only be effected by "restoring to full vigour and energy, her county power." That once done, the standing army would no longer be an object of fear and jealousy; but must thenceforth be viewed in the amiable light of a body of men devoting themselves to the interest and glory

of their country, in all her foreign services.

Ignorant and weak men imposed upon by the crafty and the knavish, are taught to believe, that the civil power of England is inadequate to the quelling of riots. But what says that faithful expounder of the law, that "most enlightened of the sons of men," Sir William Jones?

"Having shown," says he, "the nature and extent of the posse comitatus, and proved that it is required by law to be equal in its exertion to a well disciplined army, I have established the proposition, which I undertook to demonstrate, that the common and statute laws of the realm, in force at this day, give the civil state in every county a power, which, if it were perfectly understood and continually prepared, would effectually quell any riot or insurrection, without assistance from the military, and even without the modern Riot act."

And one who has carefully trod in the steps of Jones, has also shown that "an internal tranquillity which nothing could disturb, would be another happy effect of reviving the constitutional system of our ancestors. An armed power of the county, every where present, constantly ready at the call of the magistrate, and abundantly able to crush all resistance, must have the effect of preventing tumult, which a standing army can only quell."

In 1794, "while soldiers were quartered at York, rioters razed to the ground the houses of magistrates at Sheffield;—while soldiers were stationed at Nottingham, rioters set Birmingham in flames." This conflagration made a feature in the reign of terror, in support of the minister Pitt; and was effected by a rabble of miscreants, bellowing "Church and King," as similar rabbles have more recently, in the service of another minister, vociferated "No Popery!" and during the ministry of Lord North, while the country was full of soldiers, "the capital was in flames, and at the mercy of the vilest brutes that ever bore human shape." Such is the protection of a standing army! But, if it were better, who would purchase it at the loss of liberty—at a surrender to military despotism! If the standing army be native, what must the men of it feel, when either, on occasion of petty riots, obeying orders, and shooting their countrymen and companions—perhaps their fathers and brothers, or women and quiet tradesmen in their shops, or else for disobeying such orders, liable to suffer death by martial law?

Against the light which the brightest

luminary of the age had beamed in meridian splendour on the subject of the county power, proving it to be equally our sure, as our "legal" protection, whether assailed by rioters, with their mud, their stones, and their torches; or by a Napoleon, with his dukes, his kings, and his legions, ministers, and parliaments, with a perverseness and obstinacy, which have but one explanation, have inflexibly refused to their country the benefit of that light, or to adopt a "legal mode of suppressing riots."

Thirty years long, therefore, have we felt the military rod of an evil generation of statesmen, haters of light, and truth, and liberty; lovers of darkness, deceit, and despotism, who, in contempt of proof and demonstration, have as absurdly as incessantly laboured to cause it to be believed, that a standing army are legal keepers of the peace, and that foreign mercenaries are a constitutional and an honourable defence!

To your patriotism, we shall have been indebted for a discussion of these high questions, and all that is collateral. To your firmness, we shall owe much, very much, of the benefits to be derived from the inquiries which now occupy all minds.

We particularly thank you, enlightened countrymen, for continuing your resistance to right the point; that is, until your house, in law your sacred place of repose, was forced by military violence. Had you sooner submitted, our oppressors would only have been guilty, of once more repeating the stale and hackneyed illegality of keeping the peace by military force. But you have extorted from tyranny a manifestation of its latent wickedness.

This new stretch of arbitrary power of executing legal process against an Englishman by military force, is to be condoned as the minister's proclamation, that we are henceforth to consider ourselves as living under a military government, subject to the law of arms, and to the dominion of the sword. Here, Sir, is ample matter for our contemplation! Is this the goal to which we have been led by privilege?

Had you, sir, reeled beastly drunk into the house of commons, made a scandalous brawl, and thrown a chair at the head of the Speaker, it may even be doubted whether you would have incurred more than a momentary displeasure, although the dignity of the assembly might have required the form of a reprimand.

Or had you, as a base traitor to the constitution, even sold its seats by dozens at noon day, some are of opinion the pro-

fanation, although it might have shocked the piety of the Speaker, might have been passed over even without inquiry.

Why then are you in the tower?—Our hearts tell us it is because you are Sir Francis Burdett—because your presence is painful to the seat-selling crew—the cause to all unprincipled factions contending for power and pelf you are a common enemy: one who, equally regardless of ins or of outs, looks neither to the right hand nor to the left, but only straight forward to the constitution and the liberties of your country.

Imprisonment, sir, is not in itself en- viable; but it may be made so. To you, it is a just cause of exultation. You triumph. Your enemies only are degraded. Intending to involve you in public odium, they accused you of unconstitutional conduct, of violence, and of shedding innocent blood. But odium recoils; the false and feeble accusation has, by an awful public voice, at which they tremble, been hurled back in thunder on themselves, and they are universally pronounced invaders of the constitution, men of violence, men of blood—endeavouring to lower your reputation, they have doubled the public con-

fidence in your knowledge, your wisdom, your integrity.—Meaning punishment, they have conferred reward. Designing disgrace, they have bestowed on you the highest honour in their gift—their own impotent malice! But, panic stricken, to shun danger they rush on destruction, they saw not, that, in violating your person, they were promoting your purpose; in forcing you from your seat, they were forwarding your work; in the persecution of the reformer, they were accelerating reform!

Infatuation thus frustrated all their counsels, foreign or domestic. But what then?—It pleaseth our borough-monger sovereigns that such men shall rule the law. And are they not fit servants of such masters?

Accept, illustrious Countryman, once more, the thanks of our hearts; together with our earnest prayers to Heaven for your health; that you may, ere long, renew your parliamentary exertions, in co-operation with the honest, among your brethren of the house, and all other good men, towards a complete restoration of our two-fold constitution, for the salvation of our country!

DOMESTIC OCCURRENCES.

ULSTER.

A few inhabitants of Belfast observing the impracticability of their children having justice done them in their education at the public schools, in consequence of those schools being so much crowded, that the teachers have it not in their power to do (however well disposed) their duty to all their scholars—have adopted a plan, which they conceive likely to turn out much to the advantage of their children, with a considerable saving to themselves.

They have engaged a young man of abilities as a teacher, at a stated salary, providing him with a house, and the necessary furniture, at their own expense; no greater number of scholars than 25 can be admitted; the subscribers defraying the whole expense in proportion to the number of children each may have at school, the management to be under the control of a committee of themselves.

It is worthy of remark, that the young man above alluded to has received his education at the Belfast weekly, or Sunday-school; and, upon due examination, has been found perfectly capable of teaching English, Writing, and Arithmetic; being all the branches attempted to be taught at that useful seminary.

How gratifying to the soul of humanity, to find that institution rising to such eminence, by the exertions of a few philanthropic individuals, mostly composed of young men, who willingly appropriate that time (applied by others to amusement on Sundays) for the purpose of instructing those whose situation in life renders it impossible by other means to obtain education.

By this means a double purpose is served; those children who would otherwise be wandering the streets on Sundays, contracting habits of vice, are

usefully employed in storing their minds with knowledge during school hours; and a degree of emulation is so far excited, that numbers of them are learning their lessons at home, when in other circumstances they might, and in all probability would, be wasting their time in idleness or mischief.

Married.... At Coleraine, Robert Kyle, esq. of Laurel-hill, to Miss Murray of Cookstown.

Mr. Wm. Waugh of Londonderry, to Miss Coch-rane of Artcliffe, near Coleraine.

Mr. Michael Mooney to Miss Bullen, both of Bel-fast.

Mr. Peter McCornick to Miss Stitt, both of Bel-fast.

Mr. John Marshall, of Milltown, to Miss Crocket, of Newtownunmanningham.

Mr. Benjamin Storey, to Miss E. Reilly, both of Newry.

Mr. Anthony Davison, of Killisfeagh, to Miss E. Russel, of Ballymacconnell.

Surgeon Johnston, of the navy, to Miss Arm-strong, of Brookborough.

Mr. Phillip Watson, Captain of the ship Perceve-rance, to Miss Brown of Kinsale.

Mr. John Munn, to Miss Haslett, both of Derry.

Died.... At Belfast, Mr. John Smylie.

At Dundonald, the Rev. Jacob Haslett.

Near Coagh, Mrs. Boyle.

Mrs. Morrell, of Ballyquin, co. Derry.

At Antrim, Mr. Alexander Kirkpatrick.

Mrs. Cochrane, of Coleraine.

At Carrnmoney, Mrs. Jane Staunton.

A Lifford, Mr. David Pyke, and Mr. John Evans, aged 90.

Rev. E. Storey, of Bockad, co. Cavan.

Mr. Samuel Robinson, of Waring-street, Belfast.

Mrs. Cunningham, wife of Mr. 's. Cunningham,
Crookedstone.
At Portadown, Rev. George Blacker, Vicar of
Bego, co. Armagh.

In Ballycastle, Miss Macnaghten.
Rev. Walter Galbraith, dissenting minister at
Londonderry.
Near Randalstown, Miss Eliza Agnew.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT,

From April 20, till May 20.

THE present season has proved one of the latest that can be recollected for upwards of thirty years, and since the dry weather set in, we have had so great a continuance of cold easterly winds, that very little vegetation has ensued.

The great demand for hay even at the present advanced time of the year, shows the extraordinary backwardness of the Spring, and unless the ensuing summer proves extremely favourable, there is much reason to expect a later harvest than has been experienced for many years.

It is a favourable circumstance for the country, that so great a proportion of the oats that are sown, is of that kind called the Potatoe Oats, which not only ripens earlier, but may be cut in a greener state than any of the other species, without injury to the crop.

The wheat crops continue to look well, but the barley and oats are not sufficiently advanced to allow of any judgment being formed of their future state.

A good deal of flax-seed it is presumed has been sown this year, but it is not easy to determine, what the result may be; the backwardness of the season has protracted the sowing much beyond the most favourable time and it is to be feared a great deal of the seed that was sowed last year is of inferior quality and will not be productive; if the ensuing summer proves favourable for saving seed, it is to be hoped the farmers will avail themselves of it. The great loss and disappointment that lately were occasioned by the want of a timely supply of foreign seed, clearly show the necessity of rendering ourselves less dependant on other countries for the raw material of our staple manufacture, and although the humidity of our climate may sometimes throw considerable obstructions in our way, as in the case of last year, we ought not to suffer ourselves to be discouraged from persevering in the attempt.

The demand for dry cattle has not been as brisk as usual at this season, principally owing to the backwardness of the Spring, indeed the greater part of those that have been brought to market, are in very bad condition; a scarcity of fodder and want of grass have produced this effect, and will probably continue to do so until the occupiers of land more generally get into the practice of laying down their fields with grass-seeds, instead of leaving them to nature, which in exhausted ground seldom produces a sward of grass sufficient for feeding cattle in less than three years, and mostly if not always encourages such a growth of weeds, as impoverishes the soil instead of helping it.

The prices of grain have not advanced since last report; the extraordinary rise in provisions so positively predicted to be the consequence of allowing the stills to work has not taken place.

COMMERCIAL REPORT.

FAILURES, by their frequency and magnitude, continue to alarm the Commercial world, and afford a practical refutation of the pompous state of the Empire, as set forth by the English prime Minister on his opening the budget. The lottery of speculation has latterly been adverse to the dashers; the regular channels of trade have been closed, not less by the absurd regulations of our Orders in Council, than by the decrees of the French ruler. The system of paper has extended too far, and in our immediate district the issue of private bank-notes has been too extensive, as has been evinced by the quantity that flowed in on the banks for payment, and clearly manifested, that too much paper was afloat, more than a healthful circulation could absorb. But these things work their own remedy. Less paper must be issued, and men in trade must take in their sails, in the present hard blowing weather. In the late calm, many acted with too confident notions of security: they looked no further than to the present moment, and while paper could be easily exchanged for paper, heedlessly proceeded....

"Regardless of the sweeping whirlwind's sway,
That, hush'd in grim repose, expects his evening prey."

More flax-seed arrived than was expected or was necessary for the demand, for only about two thirds of the quantity of former years, has been purchased. It is hoped that this deficiency in the demand is not caused by less flax-seed being sown, but by more being saved last year in small quantities by the farmers, than had been calculated on. It is curious to see our Irish Finance minister recur to the measure of bringing a bill into parliament to cover the importers of the bad flax-seed, which last year had been sent over to this country under the authority of the inspectors sent by the linen-board to England to procure a supply of flax-seed, and who undoubtedly were, not very discriminating in the quality of the seed, which they branded, as if it would not have been better to have wanted a supply altogether rather than be tantalized with seed unfit for sowing. The whole business affords confirmation of the opinions often reiterated in these reports, that the majority of the meeting of linen drapers at Armagh acted extremely injudiciously. They set in motion, by their address, a plan, which has produced many inconveniences, all which might have been avoided by the simple right forward course of petitioning against the Orders in Council, as in conjunction with the interruption of the Baltic trade, being the cause of the defective supply of flax-seed. Until the system of commercial warfare is given up by our government, and greater liberality practised towards neutrals, trade will be continually annoyed and subject to all the risque and dangers to which it has latterly been so remarkably exposed, for to the uncertainties arising from this cause, may fairly be referred many of the bankruptcies which now distress and agitate the commercial world.

The linen trade continues without much amendment. Many of the linens which were bought on speculation about 18 months ago, have lately been sold; but on such terms as to leave little encouragement to renew a farther speculation in manufactures, nor is this disappointment to be regretted, for from this unadvised and pernicious speculation the present distressing situation of the linen trade is fairly deducible.

The state of exchange and discount has not varied much from the report of last month, except that in the latter part of the month both have been a little lower.

Adaptation

NATURALIST'S REPORT.

From April 20, till May 20.

Mild Spring returns, and leads the rosy hours,
Awakes again the zephyrs, birds, and flowers,
Awakes my lyre; but how attune my lay?
Ah! when earth throws her mourning garb away,
When hills, and meads, and every verdant grove,
Smile with reviving hope, and joy, and love,
Let others celebrate the pomp of war,
Place glorious victory on her thundering car,
Let Athens' cup their hands with crimson stain,
Flora invites, I sing her lovely reign;
I sing how Art the imperfect landscape aids,
Directs the flowers, the waters, lawns and shades.

DE LILLE.

In the earlier ages, men who introduced useful animals or plants received the veneration of their countrymen, and at their death were supposed to obtain a place among the celestial beings who presided over the universe, and in later times the triumphant heroes of Rome gloried in displaying among the spoils from the conquered an orange, an apricot, a peach and a cherry tree——Recent discoveries give us reason to believe that large as is our collection of useful and pleasant plants, numbers yet remain to be added, well worthy our attention. In the year 1699, few regarded the larch, now the pride of our groves, as worthy the attention of a sensible man, being then only cultivated as a curious but tender exotic.

The Green Tea from China, as a shrub, and the beautiful Sophora's from New Zealand, trained against a wall, are now sufficiently hardy to beat the cold of our winters. And no one believed that the universally admired Fuschia, nursed with unremitting care in the hot-house, so late as the year 1784, was a hardy perennial, fit for every vicissitude of our climate, until I ventured, judging of its hardiness, by com-

paring the temperature of Chili with that of Ireland, to plant it in the open air. These instances it is hoped will induce others to try similar experiments, and as the present time is the season above all others favourable for turning out the tender inmates of the Green-house and Conservatory, the opportunity should not be lost; if not planted early in the season their shooting will be too much prolonged, and the early frosts of Autumn will do irreparable damage, by impeding their future growth and thereby establish an opinion of their being too tender, although the plants by proper attention to time, soil, and situation are well calculated to bear the severest cold of Ireland.

April 21 Saw two or three Common Swallows (*Hirundo Rustica*) white Flowering Cinquefoil (*Potentilla alba*) Italian Squills (*Scilla Italica*) and Wild Plum (*Prunus domestica*) flowering.

22, Nettle Butterflies (*Papilio Urtica*) appearing.

25, Perfoliate leaved Crowfoot (*Ranunculus amplexicaule*) Nodding flowered star of Bethlehem (*Ornithogalum nutans*) and Grocus-leaved Ixia (*Ixia Bulbocodium*) flowering.

24, Star Anemone (*Anemone hortensis*) Vernal Adonis (*Adonis Vernalis*) Cuckoo flower (*Cardamine pratensis*) flowering, Marsh Marigold (*Caltha palustris*) in full flower.

25, Land Rail (*Gallinula Crex*) arrived, and calling.

26, Beautiful Squill (*Scilla amœna*) Starwort (*Stellaria nemorum*) flowering.

27, Spotted leaved Orchis (*Orchis maculata*) flowering, Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*) arrived, and calling. White spotted butterfly (*Papilio Ageria*) appearing.

29, Common house fly (*Musca domestica*) appearing.

30, Reed Warbler (*Sylvia Arundinacea*) arrived.

May 1, Mediteranean Heath (*Erica Mediteranea*) Canadian Rosebay (*Rhodora Canadensis*) and Marsh Violet (*Viola palustris*) flowering. Orange tipped Butterfly (*Papilio Cardamine*) appearing.

3, Common Broom (*Spartium Scoparium*) flowering.

5, Italian Bell Flower (*Scilla Campanulata*) flowering.

6, Common Harebell (*Scilla nutans*) Stemless Gentian (*Gentiana acaulis*) flowering, Fieldfares (*Turdus Pilaris*) not yet left us.

9, Scarlet Siberian Crab (*Pyrus prunifolia*) flowering.

12, Asiatic Globe Ranunculus (*Troillius Asiaticus*) flowering.

13, White throat (*Sylvia cinerea*) arrived.

14, Shining leaved Geranium (*Geranium lucidum*) flowering.

15, Bush Vetch (*Vicia Sepium*) Birds-foot Trefoil (*Lotus Corniculatus*) Milk-wort (*Polyzala officinalis*) Mountain Avens (*Geum Rivale*) and Apple trees (*Pyrus Malus*) flowering. Grass hopper Warbler (*Sylvia Locustella*) arrived.

16, Labrador Tea (*Ledum latifolium*) flowering.

18, Glaucus leaved Kalmia (*Kalmia glauca*) flowering.

20, Germander Speedwell (*Veronica Chamœdrys*) Mountain Speedwell (*Veronica Montana*) and White Lilac (*Syringa Vulgaris alba*) flowering.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

From April 20, till May 20.

April 21, 30, . . . Cold dry days.

May 1, 3, . . . Cold dry days.

4, . . . Cloudy, cold, frosty, with a hail shower in the morning.

5, . . . Cloudy, cold, ice in some places nearly an inch thick.

6, 7, . . . Cold dry day.

8, . . . Wet, windy, and cold.

9, 16, . . . Cold dry days.

17, . . . Cold dry, a shower of hail at night.

18, . . . Fine, some drops of rain.

19, 20, . . . Fine days.

The Barometer, notwithstanding the changes which took place from wet to dry, experienced little change, varying little either above or below 30 inches.

The Thermometer at this season experiences greater changes in few hours than it does in all probability at any other, for, notwithstanding a considerable cold prevails during the time the sun is below the horizon, in a few hours after sunrise it ascends to a considerable height, on the morning of the 6th of May it was observed at 6 A.M. at 63°, and at 9 A.M. it had risen to 44°. The general temperature of the mornings has been low for the season, it seldom stood as high as 50°; its highest was on the 30th of April, 57.

The lowest temperature was on the 8th of May when it was at 39; its highest, 62, on the 23d of April.

The prevalent winds have been easterly, as follows, S.E. 6; E. 7; N.E. 14; S.W. only 7 times.

CELESTIAL PHENOMENA.

FOR JUNE, 1810

2nd day we have new Moon at 39 min. past 4 o'clock in the morning, but without an eclipse, as she is upwards of four one fourth degs. south of the ecliptic.

5th, The distance of the Moon from Venus is very considerably increased, and she is between the two first stars of the Little Dog; at 9, she is 32 deg. 32 min. from the first of the Lion.

10th, The Moon is below, but near to the second of the Virgin, the most western of the five stars in the Triangle; and at 9, she is 25 deg. 53 min. from Spica in the Virgin.

15th, She passes the meridian at 40 min. past 10, having below her the second of the Scorpion, to the west; and Antares and Saturn to the east of the meridian, Antares being the lowest. The groupe, therefore, formed by these objects during the night, is calculated to excite our attention. At 9, she is 48 deg. 39 min. from the first of the Virgin, and 58 deg. 26 min. from the first of the Eagle.

20th, On this day the rapidity of the Moon's course will be noticed by the great increase of her distance, since last night, from the two first stars of the Goat. She passes, during the night, the line between the second of the Water-bearer and the small stars in the tail of the Goat.

25th, She rises in the morning under the fifth star of the Fishes; the four stars in the square being at a considerable distance above her.

Mercury is in his inferior conjunction on the 21st, in the morning, and of course every evening before that time will give us fewer opportunities of observing him than the preceding. On the first of this month, Venus and this planet will attract attention after sunset, forming a quadrangle with the seventh and twelfth of the Twins. Venus passes him but at a considerable distance, as they are going in contrary directions with respect to the ecliptic, Mercury approaching it, but Venus receding from it.

Venus is an evening star, and her duration above the horizon every day increases, though slowly, her motion is direct through about 37 deg. The Moon passes her on the 4th.

Mars is in conjunction with the sun on the 15th, and of course is an evening star till that time, and a morning star after, but so near the sun during the whole month that he will not attract attention.

Jupiter is a morning star and may be seen every day for a longer interval before sun-rise than the preceding day; his motion is direct through six one fourth degrees; on the 13th, he passes the fourth of the Ram, and his recess from it will be daily apparent. The Moon passes him on the 27th.

Saturn passes the mer. on the 1st, at 51 min. before 1, in the morning, and on the 19th, at 48 min. past 10 at night, of course we shall have good opportunities in the course of this month, for making our observations on this planet. The Moon passes him on the 15th.

Herschell is in the mer. nearly at 10, on the 1st; he continues to recede from the first of the Balance, his motion being retrograde through three one fourth degs. The Moon passes him on the 14th.

ECLIPSES OF JUPITER'S SATELLITES.

1st SATELLITE.				2d SATELLITE.				3d SATELLITE.							
Immersion.				Immersion.											
DAYS.	H.	M.	S.	DAYS.	H.	M.	S.	DAYS.	H.	M.	S.	DAYS.	H.	M.	S.
2	1	32	56	3	9	8	20	7	21	21	44 Im.				
3	20	1	31	6	22	26	32	7	23	21	42 E.				
5	14	30	10	10	11	44	27	15	1	22	51 Im.				
7	8	58	44	14	1	2	44	15	3	22	53 E.				
9	3	27	21	17	14	20	37	22	5	23	34 Im.				
10	21	55	54	21	3	39	1	22	7	23	39 E.				
12	16	24	31	24	16	36	54	29	9	24	43 Im.				
14	10	53	4	28	6	15	22	29	11	24	51 E.				
16	5	21	39												
17	23	50	11												
19	18	18	46												
Look to the right hand.*															

* First Satellite Continued.

21	12	47	17
23	7	15	51
25	1	44	21
26	20	12	54
28	14	41	23
30	9	9	56

BELFAST MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

No. 23.]

JUNE 30, 1810.

[Vol. 4.]

COMMUNICATIONS, ORIGINAL AND SELECTED.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON THE MIGRATION OF BIRDS.

THE migration of various species of birds, at particular seasons, has attracted the notice of the learned and curious in almost every age; that the ancients observed the same is evident from the words of the prophet Jeremiah, who says, "the stork, in the Heaven knoweth her appointed times, and the turtle, and the crane, and the swallow, observe the time of their coming." From these words of the prophet it is plain that several kinds of birds were observed to migrate in that country, although from the temperature of its climate they might be supposed to have had less need to change their habitation than those here. Respecting the appearance and disappearance of some birds here, all accounts hitherto published clash very much; indeed it is a subject very difficult to investigate, as the birds which visit us have different incentives, some coming as it were only to breed, and rear their young, while others seem by peculiar instinct, to come merely for food. I have endeavoured for several years past to gather something new on this head, by observing as minutely as possible their disappearance and coming; hoping to add some authentic information respecting their natural history, but as yet I have been rather unsuccessful, being only able to observe the time of their coming, &c. without finding myself justified in making any additional observations of consequence. As my attention was chiefly directed to the common birds, which visit us late in spring, or early in summer, I shall mention the earliest and latest times I saw or heard them during my observation;

BELFAST MAG. NO. XXIII.

also the remarks of several eminent persons who have written on this subject; and shall now begin with the cuckoo: concerning this bird, little has been said by the naturalist, and that little not satisfactory, some asserting that they migrate, and others that they do not, but creep into old hollow trees &c. lying in a torpid state the rest of the year: and that they are a species of hawk whose pipe is mellowed by sucking the eggs of other birds. Respecting its torpidity of ten months, I shall make no comment as it is so very unreasonable; the opinion of its being a species of hawk, seems founded on the shape of the bird, and their living by rapine, disappearing as soon as the other birds cease to lay eggs; this is generally a fact, but whether they are

"An annual guest in other lands,"

or not, I cannot determine. Of their manner of breeding, accounts are also contradictory, it is said, and commonly believed, that they build no nest, laying their egg in the nest of another bird, which adopts it as her own; this bird is said to be that which is usually known by the name of the moss-cheeper: Dr. Jenner says, they commonly lay their egg in the nest of the hedge sparrow. In the London monthly magazine for 1800, a correspondent says, "that he found that season a cuckoo's nest on the ground, with one egg, and on his examining it afterwards another egg, that he watched every day for upwards of a fortnight, and always found a cuckoo on the eggs. At length two young ones were produced with a dark lead-coloured down, which he saw the parents feed every day for more than a week, when both old and young disappeared."

D D d

though the latter were not half fledged.* A few years ago I saw a young bird supposed to be a young cuckoo, it was near the size of a young magpie, and of a dirty gray colour, of an orange cast about the mouth, it eat greedily, of almost any thing, and lived several days; whether it was really a young cuckoo or not I cannot determine, but its chirp and appearance differed from all others I ever saw: the earliest I have seen any of these birds was April 25; latest, June 29. Concerning the swallows, accounts are still more contradictory; in Sweden, Denmark, and other northern countries they are said to remain under water during winter, but that is certainly not the case here; Mr. Pennant supposes they mostly remain in the country, under ground, and mentions that in a cliff near Whitby, Yorkshire, on digging out a fox, whole bushels of swallows were found in a torpid state. A person of veracity also informs me of a similar case in the county of Antrim. Though I believe both these accounts coming from such a respectable source, I do not conceive it to be general with them to lay themselves up like insects, &c. (perhaps they were both of a particular species) as many proofs are that they generally leave the country†; swifts and martins retiring early in autumn, and the common swallow about the latter end of September. On the evening of the 28th September, last year, I observed a great number of swallows flying backwards and forwards, screaming in an unusual manner, which I suppose was a signal to collect their body, as next day not one was to be seen; myriads of the swallow kind are often seen traversing the straits of Gibraltar, from north to south, and from south to north, according to the season, also various sorts of hawks and kites;

* As this is the only account I have seen of the cuckoos rearing their young, I would be glad if any of your correspondents could furnish any thing to elucidate the subject.

† Mr. Laskey, of Exeter, mentions seeing them setting off in vast numbers, steering a S.E. course.

they are said to keep as little as possible above the ocean, flying over the land: the following are the earliest and latest periods I observed them.

<i>First seen.</i>		<i>Last seen.</i>
April 17,	Common swallow,	Sept. 2.
15,	White rumped martin	Sept. 4.
23,	Land rail first heard,	Aug. 19.
25,	Cuckoo first heard,	June 29.
May 12,	Swift,	Sept. 2.

The land-rail, or corn-crake, is also said to migrate, which is somewhat more remarkable than of any of the former, it being a bird very unwilling to fly, and seemingly not well accommodated for long flights; they are said to retire to Spain, having been often caught lighting on ships in the channel and bay of Biscay; they commonly visit us about the beginning of May, the earliest I have heard them call was April 23, and latest August 10; I have however known them caught in fields about the roots of hedges several weeks after. I shall now conclude these remarks and extracts, hoping that some more successful observer will communicate his remarks on this subject.

S.M.S.

C. Fergus.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

A DIALOGUE ON TASTE.

Henry. MY dear Charles, how do you do? I have been seeking you. Where have you been?

Charles. I have just been paying a visit to Mrs. M. We had a most extraordinary dispute on the subject of taste, and we differed most completely.

Henry. How was that, Charles?

Charles. You know I have great pretensions to a taste in horses, and I was telling her that I had just given a very large sum of money for a very fine hunter.

Henry. And I suppose she condemned your extravagance.

Charles. She did, and laughed at what she called my folly.

Henry. I do not wonder at it.—How could a man of taste spend all his money on horses?

Charles. Why, Henry, I might as well ask you, how a man of taste could pay a thousand pounds, as you

did a few days ago, for part of the foot of a statue of Alcibiades' dog? or rather for what they told you was so: though I suppose it is very uncertain.

Henry. Uncertain! it is a most undoubted fact.

Charles. How do you know it?

Henry. By the elegance of the design; by the spirit of the execution; nothing equal to it was ever produced by the moderns. I was very fortunate in getting so good a bargain; I would have given two thousand pounds rather than have missed it.

Charles. Well, well, Henry, you spend your money in antiquities, I spend mine in horses: and we both show our taste by doing so, no doubt.

Henry. But Charles, do you tell how Mrs. M— shows her taste and spends her money? I should like to hear an account of her jewels.

Charles. Jewels! I do not believe she has any in the world, except her lovely children; which are jewels indeed.

Henry. Then I suppose she spends a great deal at the card table.

Charles. I never could account for it, but sure I am, she never sits down to a card-table. You never could guess how she spends her money.

Henry. Do, tell me.

Charles. Some other time, I will explain the whole of it to you. At present I must go to see a beautiful curriole and a pair of horses, that are to be sold by auction; I am afraid I shall miss them. Good morning.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

STANLEY AND MORLAND....A TALE.

I HAVE often wondered that so noble a feeling as gratitude, and so natural to all degrees of people is so short-lived, however strongly it is felt at first. It is a virtue we have from nature, and is felt by every heart which is not made callous by vice, but it is of little use to us, if not properly directed by reflection. Hence we see the poorer classes of the people who are quite

overpowered with gratitude at the first donation, become less and less obliged at every time they are served, till ultimately they look no longer upon it as an obligation, but as a right. Some sick people who from being continually attended during a long illness, far from being thankful for the attentions of their friends, grow cross and peevish to those who have had so much anxiety about them. Hence children too frequently show so little regard to their parents; and the world, in general, show so little to their Creator, although we all know that every blessing we enjoy comes from him.

Stanley and Morland were school-fellows. Stanley was much older than Morland, and had protected him from the rudeness of other boys; this more than congeniality of sentiment was the beginning of their friendship; disparity of age unfitted them to be otherwise intimate.

They left school and almost forgot each other, when Stanley heard by accident that Morland's estate was to be sold to answer the debts of a banker to whom he had lent his name. The benevolent heart of Stanley felt as keenly for his young friend as if it were himself that suffered, and without a moment's reflection, he wrote to Morland, requesting him to come and live in his family till some more agreeable situation offered.—Morland could not bear the thoughts of being a burden to his friend, and did not without much persuasion consent: at length he came, and found every thing to his satisfaction, a kind friend, a happy family, and a hearty welcome from all; his heart was full of gratitude. Stanley did every thing to make the obligation light to his visitor, and took every trouble to look out for a situation for him.

Years rolled on and Morland began really to feel at home; he became more indifferent about getting an employment; he felt himself happy;—his independent spirit was almost extinguished, he was gradually forgetting the donor. He had already resided eight years with Stanley, when an advantageous situation offered for a young man of respectability. Idleness had become agreeable to Morland, and the springs of action in his mind had

lost their elasticity; he had no desire to be useful; being so long without any object in view but his own gratification, he now cared for nothing else. He was unused to reflection, and was only actuated by the feelings of the moment. The first effervescence of gratitude had long since subsided, and he received the intelligence of changing his place of abode, with a forced politeness, though obviously with ill-humour and discontent; his friend now perceived that he had acted imprudently by inducing Morland to spend the prime of his life in idleness, and perceiving his sentiments by his looks, encouraged him to employ his present time in making up for so much leisure.— They parted but not cordially; necessity made Morland exert himself, and it was long before he out-grew the bad habits he had acquired. His friend was soon forgotten. The advice Stanley had given Morland at the last parting more than counterbalanced the years of satisfaction he had passed. Had Morland possessed a sounder judgment, and given himself time to reflect, he would not have felt such lively feelings of gratitude at first; he would perceive his friend's benevolent heart was gratified by treating him kindly, and he would have endeavoured to be useful to his benefactor while he resided with him, and have used every exertion to get into some employment however trifling, as much for the sake of making himself an useful member of the community, as of becoming independent; not to lessen his debt of gratitude to his friend, but to be better satisfied with himself.

Z.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

THE TRIUMPHS OF WAR...A DIALOGUE.

AS I was riding along the high-road a few days ago with a newspaper in my hand, reading the glorious exploits of some of our great men, I overtook a girl with a child on her back, hardly able to walk; the following dialogue took place:—

Gentleman. Where are you going my good girl, you seem sadly tired?

Girl. I am going to the County Tyrone, sir.

Gentleman. Where is your husband?

Girl. He is gone to Spain, and I have not a farthing to support myself and poor child that is now crying on my back with hunger; and what is worse, I am sure I shall never see my husband again, for there is such dreadful tidings in the newspaper. The army have suffered the greatest distress in Spain (tears ran down her cheeks as she spoke.)

I gave her a trifle and rode on, and began to read, but the news which had before appeared so glorious, now filled me with horror. I thought of the many poor creatures left widows and orphans merely to gratify the unfeeling cravings of ambition.

M.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON MEDIOCRITY.

I AM particularly fond of seeing mediocrity well applied. By mediocrity, I mean a person who possesses moderate talents and moderate fortune, contributing moderately to his happiness. His talents must neither be wasted in idleness, nor extravagantly lavished by affecting to show more genius than he really possesses. In the one case he is generally reputed stupid and really becomes so; in the other he renders himself ridiculous after a short flourish. But if all is managed well, a man with a tolerable understanding may gain a good stock of wisdom, and be a reasonable, instructive companion. With a moderate taste, well directed under the guidance of that understanding, he will feel real pleasure himself, and afford pleasure to others.

With moderate wealth he can benefit the poor, and render his household comfortable; by indulging no immoderate expectations and hopes, the occurrences of life will make him moderately happy. A man, thus directed by reason, will possess far more happiness, than the man whose mind is more richly furnished, and who has more wealth, but who manages badly. Is it not a more pleasing sight to see a small, plain house, kept neat, than a large, highly ornamented

passion running to ruin? The consideration of well managed mediocrity makes us perceive that it is in the power of all to be sufficiently wise, agreeable and useful. The same reasoning may be applied to personal beauty, which is not long engaging except it be accompanied by a good, pleasing countenance. Our feelings too ought to be well regulated; unless they are so, we can be of no more advantage to our friends, than if we were unfeeling. Even moderate talents are not necessary to render us amiable or useful. If, like Sir Hugh Tyrold, in Miss Burney's excellent novel of "Camilla," the heart be full of goodness and kindness the head may be void, and thus goodness unbounded by reason, may be hurtful to our friends.

Let us be highly gifted, or moderately gifted, we must make the best use of our talents, if we expect to be durably useful. A man of the largest fortune may, by extravagance, become a beggar, and a man of the greatest talents act unbecomingly the dignity of a philosopher. E.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

AN ESSAY ON READING, ADDRESSED TO THE LADIES.

ALTHOUGH books make one of the chief means of acquiring knowledge, yet knowledge is seldom acquired by them in the degree that ought to be. I impute this failure equally to the choice of books, and the manner of using them. It requires no little judgment to select our studies, and no little industry to profit by them. Young ladies ought to be particularly careful in choosing the subjects of their reading; they have much leisure for reading, and on that account books have a great share in their meditations, and strongly influence their characters. Many young ladies, I must acknowledge, have such a strong reliance on their personal charms, that they think it needless to take much pains for the embellishment of their minds; to such persons I have little to say, the rightness of their eyes, and the elegance of their complexion may

inflict a few slight wounds, but the dullness of their understandings, and the poverty of their conversation will cure them speedily, except the lovers are only a few degrees removed from idiots. I shall therefore address myself to those ladies who are sensible of the importance of learning, and who think that the brightest personal charms may receive additional lustre from the improvement of the mind, the attainment of useful knowledge, and the command of elegant language.

The first regulation of a lady's library ought to be the exclusion of novels and romances. Goldsmith's "Vicar of Wakefield," Johnson's "Rasselas," "Don Quixotte," "The Adventures of Telemachus," and a few others may remain. The generality of novels are as contemptible in a literary point of view, as hurtful in a moral one; the ideas they contain are mostly far-fetched, the expressions ridiculous, and the language such as can excite nothing but contempt. Novels occasion a dreadful loss of time, they spoil the taste of their readers, they unbend the mind in the most unfavourable manner, and too often hurt the morals. The manner in which they attempt sublimity, pathos, or elegance is a fine specimen of the burlesque style; their elegance is affected, their pathos laughable, and their sublimity bombast.

There are books enough that are well worthy our perusal without engaging in the endless round of novel reading. I call it an endless round, because it is a "never ending, still beginning" task, and on account of the sameness of language, ideas, and adventures, which pervades them all, the novel-reader is engaged in a perpetual round of nonsense.

A taste not vitiated by this species of reading, would not only find more advantage, but more pleasure in books of history, biography, geography, and travels. A selection of such works, with due intermixture of scientific, moral and poetical books, would by proper reading, produce a very different effect than what we daily see on the generality of readers.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

OF THE EMPHYSALGIA, OR GENTEEL-ACHE.*

THE ancients had certain maladies among them which now no longer make their appearance, and many have sprung up among us of which they had no idea. New diseases seem to arise with new generations, with them to increase and run their course, till at last they become extinct, either through the constant attention of medical skill, or from having exhausted their malignity on all the matter that could receive them.

Diseases also assume new forms, and symptoms now appear so different from what they did of old, that were we not extremely careful in observing every circumstance, the greatest mistakes would ensue.

In an extensive practice I have frequently had the most convincing proofs of the truth of the above observations in many instances, but in none more evidently than in that of the disorder of which I now lay some account before the public.

This malady, though very malignant, has not as yet been treated of by any medical pen, the task therefore of finding it a proper denomination devolves on me; many have presented themselves, but of all I most prefer that of *Emphysalgia* or *Genteel-ache*.

The *emphysalgia* assumes different forms according to the age, and particularly the sex of the afflicted; it also exhibits particular symptoms according to the season of the year, all of which shall be noted in their proper place; some appearances are however universal, and those I shall take notice of in the first place.

The disease generally commences with an elevation of the sternum, a swelling or puffing up of the thorax or breast (whence its name is taken) and a proportional depression of the abdomen or belly; and hence the

old proverb of "high breast and empty stomach," seems to have derived its origin. There is sometimes also observed an *elevatio palpebræ*, or raising of the eye-brow, but this is not always the case. This new arrangement of the viscera, or internal of the body, produces a constrained breathing, *dyspnoea*, which occasions a determination of the blood toward the head, the veins of the neck become swelled, and the fine ramifications of the eye appear turgid; and hence the *oculus sanguineus*, or crimson eye, which is always a symptom of advanced disorder.

The afflicted now grow restless, and experience a propensity to herd with those who have the same disorder—it is generally in vain to attempt to restrain them in this; though the disorder always increases from communication, and a very malignant symptom, the *mimesis*, or desire of imitating whatever the others do, is universally the consequence.

The next stage of the disease is attended with a loathing of all those who are not disordered: this symptom is sometimes very violent; or a person in health, approaching one of those who is ill, you instantly see marks of aversion, and an exhibition of all the bad appearances of the disorder—first, the *elevatio palpebræ* is manifest; next, the *corrugatio nasi*, or curling of the nose ensues,—lastly, a violent effort to escape, at least to another part of the room.

After this, a *tetanus* generally comes on; the muscles of the back grow very stiff, and those of the neck acquire an intense rigidity, particularly in the male sex.

As the disorder advances the memory becomes sensibly impaired; the poor sufferers forget their former acquaintance, and will not show the least signs of recollection of them, unless they are equally sick as themselves, when they are always instantly recognized.

The eye is generally affected in this complaint, and the sight suffers a strange change: all people appear of a much smaller size to the patients than they really are; and they sometimes fancy they could stride over them, as Gulliver thought he

* This paper once before appeared in an ephemeral publication, and is now inserted in the B.M.M. by desire of the author, being more proper for this work, than for that in which it was first placed.

ould over the sailors when he returned from Brobdignag.

A species of derangement always loses the disorder, of the same kind; that which makes lunatics fancy themselves kings, queens, or emperors. The patients generally think themselves at least the greatest persons of their own families, if not of the neighbourhood; and will always act accordingly; giving their orders around with all the airs of nobility; and frequently their very parents do not escape from imperious commands.

In the summer a particular symptom generally comes on; this is the hydromania, or passion for getting near water, particularly of the sea: under its influence the patients become quite outrageous if not suffered to depart, when they instantly set off to whatever shore is most frequented by those in the same complaint, plunge into the waves, and are immediately calmed.

In the winter the polimania, or desire of living in a great city, attacks most patients; in this, nearly the same effects are produced as in the hydromania; and in like manner they always experience ease on being gratified.

The patients are in general harmless, so that there is no necessity to confine them. I have not observed that the digestion is much affected by the complaint. A loss of appetite however, frequently accompanies it, and the pulse is always high.

This is the general course of the disease in most patients of both sexes: but there are besides very marked differences in its effects on each sex in particular.

In the male it is attended with a strong sensation of cold in the extremities of the legs and feet, and particularly in the neck. This he strives to remedy by excessive clothing, covering his legs with long cloth breeches to his heels, and putting over them enormous boots: while he endeavours to warm his chilly throat with immense folds of muslin: the cold sometimes proceeds into the chin, which in this case he endeavours to cover also; I have known

one patient in whom it extended up to his very nose, and who constantly covered his throat, chin, and mouth with a great quantity of the same Indian fabric, further fortified with a piece of quilted silk, stuffed with cotton. Country patients are also very liable to the hippomania and cynomania, or passion for horses and dogs, both very inveterate symptoms and hard to be removed.

In the female on the contrary, a sensation of violent heat is at present the most apparent symptom: notwithstanding all the elder ladies of a family can do to prevent it, a young female afflicted with this complaint, even in the midst of winter, finds the internal heat so insufferable, that she throws off every article of clothing the law will permit (which prohibits people from appearing entirely naked in this country.) The breast is particularly affected with this sensation, and this part no remonstrance can induce her to put any covering on whatsoever, particularly when she is in company with those equally ill, at which times I have always observed the disorder is most violent. An old lady has assured me, that her daughter, who has been long sick, more than once practised going entirely naked in her own apartment; and that there have been many reasons to believe that some, in the last stage of the complaint, have it in contemplation to appear in public, in the same trim.

I have been informed by an ancient medical friend, that when he began practice, the symptoms of the disorder were very different; that though the ladies then experienced the same heat in the breast, yet that it was confined to that part, and on the contrary other parts of the body seemed to suffer great cold, particularly the lower regions, which they then covered with great masses of clothing; that a species of a morbid sensibility and soreness of the hips, was very universal, and that they wore a kind of apparatus over them that extended to a great distance all around, to prevent any thing from touching them, and to keep their clothes from rubbing on the

tender place: he also informed me that the complaint was of a much more malignant nature in his time in this sex; that it was attended with a loss of appetite, great debility, and frequent fainting fits, and that many almost lost the use of their limbs and never walked unless across a room, and then supported by one or two gentlemen; and that in the male sex, a great heat was then predominant all over the body, in consequence of which, men wore their coats and hats extremely small, their breeches very short, and the thinnest stockings they could procure, and their waistcoats open to the last button to keep the breast and abdomen cool; all which circumstances made me of opinion that the complaint is something of an agueish nature, and has its hot and cold fits alternately, though at much longer intervals, and for a greater continuance than any other disorder of this kind, with which we are as yet acquainted.

The symptomatology having been thus given at length, together with the diagnosis and prognosis of the disorder, we should now proceed to the *ratio medendi*, or cure; but being always of opinion that this is better conveyed by instances, than positive precept, I shall give the cases of a male and female patient whom I lately attended:

Case of Owen Clodpole.

June 14, 1809....My neighbour, farmer Clodpole came for me to visit his son, who, he said was very far gone in the complaint. I found the young man very ill, indeed: the elevation of the sterni was very apparent, together with the *oculus sanguineus*, the loathing of those free from the disorder and the love of those afflicted with it. The *minnesis* was also quite confirmed, and he already had approached that state of the disorder in which the imagination is affected, and the patient's fancy themselves of superior quality: he had moreover, frequent attacks of the *cynomania* and *hypomania*, and the *hydromania* too had already made its appearance; his extremities were quite chilled, his legs were folded in thick pantaloons, which were again covered with enormous

boots, and an immense roll of maulin (apparently) enveloped his neck, chest, and mouth, up to his nose. The tetanus or rigidity of muscle was very violent in his back and neck; altogether forming a mass of symptoms I had seldom witnessed in so young a patient at once, for he was then but 18. I immediately ordered him a course of stimulant medicines to remove the want of irritability, or tendency to paralysis, in the system. I desired that all the infected part of his clothing might be taken away and carefully locked up from him, particularly the boots and neck-stuffing; and that his back might be well rubbed night and morning, to relieve the tetanus: I also recommended the farmer to put his son to some kind of work without delay, which I had often found of great service when the imagination began to be affected. In four days after, I called again, and to my great surprise, found the young man holding the plough in one of his father's fields, and to all appearance quite recovered. The old farmer came immediately to thank me for the wonderful cure; and told me that the son greatly resisting all I had ordered, they were obliged to wait till he was asleep, to remove the infected clothing; that he then persisted obstinately to lie in bed, and would wear no other, and positively refused to do any work; so that therefore, as I had desired, his back might be well rubbed, to remove the stiffness, he thought the best instrument would be his horse-whip, which was administered as he said pretty tightlily, and with the desired effect. It was to this last alteration by the farmer, in the mode of the prescription, that the suddenness of the cure, no doubt, is to be attributed. Dismissed cured.

Case of Miss Arabella Apeine.

The next remarkable case to which I was called in, was that of Miss Arabella Apeine, aged 10, one of the daughters of a worthy widow lady, about a mile from the farmer's, and the favourite. It was now the middle of winter, and the frost had set in rather severe, nevertheless I found Miss without any clothing but a thin muslin dress; her mother assured me

she had a petticoat too, but this appeared rather doubtful, and I really believe she had no shift on, having discovered no sign of one, after the most exact examination decency would permit; her breast was also entirely bare. She was severely afflicted with the horror of the well, and the love of the ill of this disorder. The mania was very strong; her memory so had suffered much, having lost all recollection of several misuses in her neighbourhood, with whom she had once been very intimate. Her imagination was greatly affected; she seemed to think every one in the house her servants, and ordered her sisters and her mother on her errands at a strange rate. She had a severe hydromania in the last summer, and the polymania had now attacked her very violently, and was every day gaining ground. Her eye had also got the change before mentioned, as it was evident most who came near her seemed to her only pygmies. When I came into the room, I appeared so very little to her, that it was some time before she noticed me, but when she did, she had so wrong a fit of the *elevatio palpebræ*, and the *corrugatio nasi*, that I thought it best to retire: on consideration, I judged it more prudent to alter my dress a little to her fancy; I therefore sent to borrow young Clodpole's best boots, and cravat from the tailor; I put them on, and was then received most graciously. I soon found out the whole extent of the complaint after a little conversation with Miss and her mother, and discovered she had been infected, with many others, by a young lady from Dublin, about ten months before, and that all the before mentioned symptoms had gradually appeared afterwards.

I put her immediately under a cooling regimen, and course of physic, and in order to restore her imagination, devised the following plan: the first night she went to a lazaretto, or meeting of the sick, happened to be very snowy: it was so com-

BELFAST MAG. NO. XXIII:

trived on her return that she should be kept under the snow, until she was entirely chilled; she was then put to bed, and her dress, if such it could be called, taken away, and a proper one left in its place; great part of the bed clothes were also removed, and she was kept several days in a room without any fire; by this means the heat was so abated, that she gradually got over all dislike to her new clothes, and on the fourth day put them on with great alacrity. She was then ordered some plain work to do, and on her refusal, had no breakfast given her till she complied; her sisters were strictly charged not to obey any of her commands, and to return no answer when he spoke imperiously; all these methods had very good effects, but I judged it best, in order to complete the cure, to send her to a distant part of the country to her aunt, whose husband had a cotton manufactory, in the superintendence of which this worthy lady and three very amiable and good daughters assisted him; here at a distance from all afflicted with the complaint, and in the society of those in full health, Miss Apeme speedily lost all traces of the disorder, and soon after returned home quite well; upon which a gentleman who had a great affection for her, renewed his addresses, which her illness had suspended, and she is now his wife and the mother of a lovely infant, and not a little thankful to her doctor, who has since attended her on very different occasions from the above.

B DOCTOR HEALERS.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

Having in our last number given to our readers a full detail of the management of the Philadelphia prison, and exhibited a comparative view of mild and sanguinary laws, and the good effects of the former, we now from the same author Robert J. Turnbull,

E

extract a comparison between the criminal code of Pennsylvania and other countries.

Continued from p. 344, No. XXII.

THE criminal laws of Pennsylvania, have approached in the nearest degree to perfection, by abolishing the punishment of death for every other crime; and when we contrast them with those of other nations, with what admiration do we behold them. For instance: the three objects of penal laws, or the ends for which punishments are designed, are the *amendment* of the criminal, the *reparation* to the injured society or individual, and a *prevention* of the same offence, by an *example* of the offender. Let us endeavour to discover, how far the laws of Great Britain, imitated by a great portion of our states, accomplish these objects.

Murder, robbery, burglary, forgery, horse stealing, and above two hundred other felonies, likewise stealing a second time above the value of twelve pence, are punished with death. This puts reformation out of the question, as the convict is deprived of life. The reparation to the injured community is none at all.

Receiving stolen goods, perjury, libelling, using false weights and measures, or petty thefts under the value of twelve pence, are respectively punished with disgraceful punishments, such as standing in the pillory, burning in the hand, and public whipping, which are still farther from answering any good end. Restitution by either of these methods is equally unattainable, for the government are at every expense of supporting persons guilty of the offences, while in confinement, trying them, and inflicting the punishment; and no sooner do they stand their time in the pillory, are burnt in the hand, or receive the appointed number of stripes, than they are once more let loose upon the community. As for reformation, they are evidently worse than before: for besides their feelings being hardened, and often utterly destroyed,

from having such a stigma fixed on them, they have at the same time acquired, while in jail, a habit of indolence (not to mention numerous other vices) which they afterwards find a difficulty in divesting themselves of. The example is little better than the rest, for what rogue would hesitate to offend, when he knew, that the only risk run was either of these punishments.

By the laws now of this country, all the ends of punishment are answered. The *restitution* to injured society is produced by the personal industry, labour, and services of the convict. The *reformation* is naturally effected, from living a regular, sober, and moral life during his confinement in prison; from being long initiated into constant habits of industry, in following a trade or occupation; while the certainty of the laws being enforced, by the offender's being brought to justice, from no interference of an idea of the unjust measure of the punishment, will always operate as a sufficient example, and thereby prove a more ample security to the rights of individuals. And even were these three grand objects defeated (which on the contrary are daily effected) there is still left a pleasant reflection, that without having recourse to cruelty, the criminal is at any rate prevented from harassing the community.

By the laws of England enforced in other states, a variety of transgressions, widely different from each other in their degrees of criminality, fall indiscriminately under one title or crime, and attended with the same punishment. Instance those included under the general definition of murder. In this country, it is confined to any kind of wilful, deliberate, and premeditated killing, or to killing occasioned in the perpetration, or attempt to perpetrate, either rape, arson, burglary, or robbery. All other murders are of the second degree.

Although a jury, may be well persuaded, that an offence is in some measure criminal, yet they

will acquit entirely, or recommend to mercy, rather than expose a citizen to a punishment beyond measure. So, if a petty theft were to be punished with six months hard labour, it is evident that it would not be adequate for an old and troublesome offender. It has long been a subject of deep concern to every humane mind, that in most countries the measure of punishment has in some cases grossly exceeded, and in others by no means equalled, the grade of the offender's guilt.

Scarcely a single instance has occurred, since the establishment of the new penal system, of a criminal's sentence being wholly remitted: many convicts, it is true, receive a mitigation of their punishment, after being reformed; yet, till that amendment takes place, they are made to suffer all the rigor of their sentences. Nor can any counterfeited reformation of a prisoner procure the pardon of the governor. The inspectors, jailer, and keepers, must have gradually observed its progress, and even under the most favourable circumstances, they never think of interfering for his release, unless he has completed the greatest proportion of his term of labour and confinement.

Thus have I endeavoured, my dear sir, in the foregoing pages, to fulfil the object proposed. I have, in the first place, furnished you with as correct an account as lay in my power, of the alternation of the penal laws of Pennsylvania; the causes which produced it; and the salutary consequences resulting from it, in effecting as well the wise and humane regulations in the *Philadelphia prison*, as the diminution of offences throughout Pennsylvania.

Secondly. I have been led to consider, among the disadvantages flowing in different ages from sanguinary codes of laws, that they have a tendency to increase rather than prevent crimes; and brought in support of it the experience, first of the ancient Romans, then of modern European nations, and lastly of our own country.

Thirdly. I have ascertained, why severe punishments, thus threatened and held up by a government, are less successful in preventing crimes, than mild and moderate penalties; owing to the certainty of their execution being more precarious, from the humanity of prosecutors, the compassion of juries, judges, &c.

Fourthly. I have thrown together a few other observations on the impolicy of the punishment of death, from its affording an example, calculated from its barbarity and injustice, to excite rather the indignation than terror of individuals; and from thence slightly touched on the absurd and inconsistent conduct of legislatures, and particularly in their applying the same remedy or punishment in all cases whatsoever.

Fifthly. I have advanced, that the punishment of death is tyrannical, inasmuch as no society can hold a power over the life of one of its members, when the rights of society are derived from those of nature, and this right not existing in a state of nature, even over our own lives. And admitting that every man had a power over his own life, that the preservation of his existence, above all others, was the principal inducement to his entering into civil society.

Sixthly. I have expressed a wish, that the taking of life may even be abolished for murder; and proposed a punishment more proper for the offence.

And lastly. I have, in taking a view of the criminal laws of other countries, further demonstrated the superiority of the Pennsylvanian code; a code, raised upon the fundamental principles of reason and equity, and which, for the beauty and symmetry of its parts, must ever command the admiration of the world. How gratifying a circumstance must it appear to the tender and humane of every description, that an example is at length given to long deluded mankind, embracing in one view so many noble objects.

**PUNISHMENTS FOR SEVERAL HEINOUS OFFENCES, AS ESTABLISHED BY THE
LAWS OF PENNSYLVANIA.**

Crimes.	Quality of Punishment.	Quantum of Punishment.	
Rape	A compound of hard labour and solitary confinement.	For any period not exceeding 21, nor less than 10 years.	
Murder of the second degree petit treason	Ditto . . .	Ditto 18,	Ditto 5
Counterfeiting, or uttering counterfeit gold or silver coin, forging or uttering forged bank notes	Ditto . . .	Ditto 15,	Ditto 4
High treason	Ditto . . .	Ditto 12,	Ditto 6
Arson	Ditto . . .	Ditto 12,	Ditto 5
Maliciously maiming, voluntary manslaughter	Ditto . . .	Ditto 10,	Ditto 2
Burglary, robbery, crimes against nature	Hard labour,	Ditto 10,	
Horse-stealing	Ditto . . .	Ditto 7,	

N.B. The solitary confinement cannot be less than one-twelfth, nor exceed one-half, of the whole term of confinement. *Maliciously maiming*, besides hard labour, and solitary confinement, is attended with a fine, not to exceed 1000 dollars, three-fourths of which to go to the party grieved. For *Horse-stealing* likewise, and *all larcenies*, there must be a separation to the value of the thing stolen, and also a fine to the commonwealth.

A TABLE OF OFFENCES COMMITTED IN THE CITY AND COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA, FROM JAN. 1, 1787, TO JUNE, 1791, BEING A PERIOD OF THE LAST FOUR YEARS AND FIVE MONTHS UNDER THE OLD CRIMINAL SYSTEM.

PERIODS.	OFFENCES COMMITTED.															
	Murder	Burglary	Robbery	Forgery	Counterfeiting	Horse stealing	Bigamy	Larceny	1st Deg. } Misdemeanors.	2d Deg. }	1st Deg. } Receiving stolen goods	2d Deg. }	Defrauding	Violent assault to kill	Harbouring convicts	Keeping disorderly houses
From Jan. 1st, 1787, to May 1st, 1788.	30	20	5	5				122	10	5	7	1	5	1		18
May 1st, 1788, to May 1st, 1789.	24	5			4			57	5	4	1		5	1		115
May 1st, 1789, to May 1st, 1790.	13	10			3			82	5	5	1		5	1		129
May 1st, 1790, to June, 1791.	9	5			5	1		115	7	1						161
	6															
Total number of offences 546																

N.B. Deduct from this table 12 offences, which ought more properly be put down to other counties

N.B. Deduct from this table 12 offences, which ought more properly be put down to other counties.

TABLE OF OFFENCES COMMITTED IN THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA, FROM JUNE, 1791, TO OCTOBER 27, 1795, BEING A PERIOD OF THE FIRST FOUR YEARS AND FIVE MONTHS UNDER THE NEW SYSTEM OF LAWS.

PERIODS.	OFFENCES COMMITTED.													
	Manslaughter	Rape	Arson	Bigamy	Burglary	Robbery	Forgery	Counterfeiting	Home-sealing	Larceny	1st Deg. } Misdemeanor.	2d Deg. }	1st Deg. } Receiving stolen goods.	2d Deg. }
From June, 1791, to June 1792,	1				2	2	7	7	42	1	1			
June, 1792, to June 1793,	2				11	1		1	40	1	1			
June, 1793, to June 1794,	1				2	3		1	15	34	2			
June, 1794, to 27 Oct. 1795,	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	3	5	88	2			
Total number of offences 301														

N.B. Since the commencement of this period of four years and five months, the convicts from all the different counties in the state have been sent to the prison of Philadelphia. Formerly they were not.

From these tables alone it appears, that since the late improvements in the penal code, offences have diminished in a proportion of about one half, and when we recollect, that the first table contains the offences of the city and county of Philadelphia only, we may pronounce that they have decreased throughout the whole state nearly two-thirds.—The two periods are equal, and the latter commences from 1791, from the new discipline not having taken place previous to that time. The most material point gained with respect to offences, is the diminution of the most heinous ones, which are still in a greater proportion. They stand in the tables as follows :

	Under the old system in the city and county.	Under the new system in the whole state.
Burglary	77	16
Robbery	39	5
Murder	9	0
Arson	0	1
Rape	0	1
Bigamy	1	1
Total	126	24

The following facts early furnished by Mr. Lowmes, were omitted by the author when the sheets in which they might have been more properly introduced had gone to press. Thinking them interesting, he has preferred placing them out of order, to withholding them from the public. At the time of the yellow fever, in 1793, great difficulty was found in

obtaining nurses and attendants for the sick at Bush-hill hospital. Recourse was had to the prison. The request was made, and the apparent danger stated to the convicts. As many offered as were wanted. They continued faithful till the dreadful scene was closed; none of them making a demand for their services till all were discharged.

One man committed for a burglary, who had seven years to serve, observed, when the request was made to him, that having offended society, he would be happy to render it some services for the injury; and if they could only place a confidence in him, he would go with cheerfulness. He went, he never left it but once, and then by permission to obtain some articles in the city. His conduct was so remarkable as to engage the attention of the managers, who made him a deputy-steward; gave him the charge of the doors, to prevent improper persons from going into the hospital, to preserve order in and about the house, and to see that nothing came to or went from it improperly. He was paid, and after receiving an extra compensation, at his discharge married one of the nurses. Another man, convicted of a robbery, was taken out for the purpose of attending a horse and cart, to bring such provisions from the vicinity of the city, as were there deposited for

the use of the poor, by those who were afraid to come in. He had the sole charge of the cart and conveying the articles, for the whole period. He had many years to serve, and might at any time have departed with the horse, cart, and provisions. He despised, however, such a breach of trust, and returned to the prison. He was soon after pardoned, with the thanks of the inspectors.

Another instance of the good conduct of the prisoners during the sickness, happened among the women. When request was made of them to give up their bedsteads, for the use of the sick at the hospital, they *cheerfully offered* even their bedding, &c. When a similar request was made to the debtors, they *all refused*.

A criminal, one of the desperate gangs who had so long infested the vicinity of Philadelphia, for several years before the alteration of the system, on being discharged, called upon one of the inspectors, and ad-

dressed him in the following manner: "Mr. ———, I have called to return you my thanks, for your kindness to me while under sentence, and to perform a duty which I think I owe to society, it being all in my power at this time to afford. You know my conduct and my character have been once bad and lost, and therefore whatever I might say would have but little weight was I now at liberty. Pursue your present plan, you will have neither burglaries nor robberies in this place." He then stated the sentiments held by those characters who had devoted themselves to this mode of life, and the plans generally pursued by them. The certainty of conviction and execution of the sentence; the *privations*, temperance, order, labour, &c. was more to be dreaded than any thing they had ever experienced. He observed at parting, that he should never trouble the inspectors more. This promise has been fully complied with.

RECAPITULATION OF THE GENERAL STATEMENT OF THE LABOUR DONE BY EACH CONVICT FOR THE QUARTER, COMMENCING 1st FEB. AND ENDING 1st MAY, 1796; IN THE PRISON FOR THE COUNTY AND CITY OF PHILADELPHIA.

CONVICTS DEBITED AGGREGATELY.		CONVICTS CREDITED AGGREGATELY.	
For diet and lodging, jailer's and keepers salaries, wages of attendants of every kind, physician's bill, &c.....	1.559 11 3	For work at the nail factory.....	1.805 8 11
Clothes furnished.....	97 8 6	Stone sawing.....	399 4 11
Shoes ditto.....	29 3 10	Grinding plaster of Paris.....	41 15 0
		Shoemaking.....	35 7 3
		Weaving.....	47 17 6
		Spinning.....	46 9 3
		Cooking, barber's work, sweeping and washing.....	44 17 0
	1.679 3 7	Chipping logwood.....	7 10 8
		Turning oakum.....	14 12 0
		Carpenter's work.....	16 18 0
			1.850 14 8

From this statement it appears, that there is a sum of 171l. 11s. 1d. in favour of the convicts aggregately. May, 1st. 1796. BASIL WOOD, Clerk.

The principal establishment is that of the nail factory. In this factory are now made, taking one quarter with another, at least 53,000 wt. of nails, the clear profits on which, after paying the labour of the convicts, wearing of tools, &c. are at a low calculation, estimated at one and an half pence per pound, or a yearly income of 1325l. On the logwood, which is bought in the bulk, and afterwards chipped and sold to the dyers or batters, there is a clear

produce of about 5l. 10s. per ton, and about six tons sold in the quarter. Plaster of Paris, an article of value when ground, yields a clear produce of two shillings and four pence per bushel, and 25 bushels are milled per day. It would be tedious to enumerate all the articles; suffice it to say, that weaving, spinning flax, making shoes, picking oakum, &c. all yield more or less a considerable clear profit to the prison. The marble is the only material of consequence

at does not altogether make a part of the ſtock belonging to the houſe. Very little is ſawed on their own account. The inſpectors ſeem averſe to engaging too great capitals in purchaſing materials, and eſpecially when they can otherwiſe procure employment for their people. Marble ſawyers are generally in demand in Philadelphia. But even on what is ſawed by contract for other perſons, the houſe derives not a trifling gain. The inſpectors pay the convicts only 1s. 6d. per foot, deducting 4d. for procuring the ſand and implements to ſaw it. Theſe expenſes at the ſmotheſt amount not to more than 3d. ſo that a penny clear profit on 18000 feet, the uſual quantity ſawed in the year, amounts to 75l.

From the foregoing then, we may collect three indisputable and important facts.

1ſt. That the convicts alone, deſray by their labour, every expenſe they occaſion the public.

2dly. That they not only ſupport themſelves, but pay the ſalaries of all the officers and attendants about the priſon: and no money being drawn from the public funds, for the payment of theſe ſalaries, that they conſequently ſave the government nearly the amount of them; for were there not a ſingle convict in the priſon, there muſt be a jailer and keepers, for the purpoſe of confining vagrants, &c.

3dly. That, above all, they enrich the public with the annual, clear, conſiderable revenue, already mentioned to ariſe from the profits on their different manufactures and trades in the priſon.

For the Belfaſt Monthly Magazine.

THE MARRIED DEMONESS; A HEBREW NOVEL.

INTRODUCTION.

WITH regard to the true author of this hiſtory, conjectures alone are poſſible. We only know that the doctor, or rabbi, Abraham Mamonides, who lived in the twelfth century, translated this little hiſtory from Arabic into Hebrew, and that it was ſhortly afterwards brought to Egypt, a city in Africa, near the

Straits of Gibraltar, where many Jews reſide, particularly ſince they were baniſhed from Spain.

This Rabbi, Abraham Mamonides was very learned, and was the ſon of the Rabbi, Moſes Ben Maimon, whom the Jews call the eagle of doctors. They ſay that ſince the legiſlator Moſes, there never was ſo great a genius, and that no other ever came near his. In truth, according to a number of authors, he excelled in the theology of the Hebrews, in the mathematics, and in medicine. The learned M. Vagenseil tranſlated this piece from Hebrew into latin, from whence mademoiſelle Patin made a verſion of it into French, which now Nemorensis has turned into our mother tongue, for the Belfaſt Magazine.

There was no connivance among the perſons who have laboured at this hiſtory: the author who originally composed it in Arabia; the Jew who tranſlated into Hebrew; the Calvinist who turned it into latin; the Catholic who made the French verſion; and the Proteſtant who put it into Engliſh.

They apparently had no other deſign but to amuſe their readers, by a diverting tale, of which the moral is excellent, though the ſtyle is very remote from the common manner of writing.

THE MARRIED DEMONESS.

A Jewish merchant named Solomon, had but an only ſon by his wife Sarah, whom he loved ardently. As he was a man of underſtanding, he took extreme care of the education of his dear ſon, and ſpared no pains to have him inſtructed in the holy ſcriptures, the traditions, and the talmud. He married him early to a young lady for whom, he knew he had conceived a ſtrong paſſion, and he had the pleaſure to ſee two ſons and a daughter ſpring from their union, whoſe wit and beauty made them ſuperior to all the other children of their age.

This good old man, perceiving his ſtrength diminiſh by degrees, and ſeeing that each day, death advanced with rapid ſtrides to conduct him to the repoſe of his fathers, along with Abraham and Jacob, requeſted his

best friends to come to him; and as he was one of the most considerable persons of the city where he dwelt, he entreated them to listen to the recital of his last will, and to be his executors. "Know my dear brethren," says he, "that I leave great riches, much more than any of you can conjecture; I desire that the first five hundred thousand crowns of my property, may be given to Sarah, both as her right, and to testify to her the love which I bear her in dying, and which has never been interrupted from the moment I pledged her my faith. The rest I bequeath to my dear son Nathan, but with this condition, which I am going to prescribe, and which I wish you to guarantee, and if he does not observe it, I declare him anathematised, and I forbid him ever to touch a particle of all the goods which I leave. He then caused his son to be called; repeated to him the same words, and forbid him ever during his life to go to sea. "Know my well beloved son," said he, "that I have not acquired so great riches, but by the voyages which I have made, and by my maritime commerce; but experience having made me know the greatness of the dangers which are incurred on the sea, I cannot bring myself to consent that you should ever venture on it, whatsoever the gain might be which you could acquire. I leave you property in such abundance, that neither you, nor your children, nor your posterity, can ever have need of acquiring more, provided that you banish the passion of accumulation. I wish then my dear son, that you would promise to observe this my last request, and that you would swear by the holiness of our law, never to violate the promise you will give me. But if you should be so unfortunate as to violate it, remember that I for ever abandon you, and that you will be irremediably deprived of all that I propose to give you, both principal and interest, so that you can never make the least advantage of it. And in order to better mark the extent of my prohibition, I in case of your disobedience deprive you of all, and make an offering of it to God.—Which gift I should make, as well

because the property is entirely my own, which I would give, as because I feel myself compelled to it by powerful reasons which are entirely indispensable."

Nathan, as became a wise man, swore to all that his father commanded him, and declared himself ready to satisfy him in any other matter, which he should desire. He also prayed all the company to be sureties for him to his father, and to assure him that he would never embark on the sea. These ceremonies did not pass without the effusion of tears, which were more those of joy and tenderness than of grief. A few days afterwards Solomon died more satisfied with the promise of his son, than feeling regret for quitting this life. Nathan took possession of his father's house, gave his first care to pay his mother, the five hundred thousand crowns, which were left her by the will, and made the strongest protestations that he would never pass the sea on any occasion whatsoever.

A year had scarcely passed after this, when three strange ships entered the port. On going out to them, it was learned from those who navigated them, that they were laden with surprising wealth, that they carried sufficient gold, silver, and pearls to enrich a kingdom, that all belonged to the good Solomon, and that one of the commanders felt the utmost impatience to bring him the good news. That cannot be done, says one of those who went out to meet the ships, for that worthy old merchant is dead; but he has left a son who may truly be said, to be the richest and wisest of all our synagogue.

Some of the mariners then came on shore, and having had themselves conducted to his house, debanded if he was the son of their good master, who extended his commerce to the extremities of the world, to export thither, and import from thence merchandize. Nathan having assured them that he was, they immediately inquired how the prudent old man had disposed of all the riches which he had on the sea. He has left me all replied Nathan by the will, which he made in presence of all

the principal men of our synagogue, but he has given me no account of the particulars of his commerce, he has even prohibited me from making a voyage, and has required of me a solemn oath against it. The commander of the mariners then said to him, we do not well comprehend your words, for if your father has not told you of the great property which he has in the Indies, and of the interest which he drew from it, he must have been impaired in his senses before he died. Know I pray you, continued he, that the ships with which we have returned are filled with goods which belong to him, and that all the gold, silver and pearls, which we carry, are the fruits of the commerce, which he had put into our hands. Dead though he is, we will not deny that these riches belong to him, and though he has left you no details of them, we will not hesitate to surrender all to you. We are honest men, who fear God, and we do not desire to retain the riches which belong to another; and besides, thanks to providence, we possess of our own more than we want. Come then without scruple, along with your servants, and take possession of all the rich merchandizes that are aboard; they belong to you without dispute.

So much good news troubled Nathan, but he felt his joy break forth, when he brought from the ships so many precious treasures, and caused them be carried to his house. The greatest joy prevailed there then; he regaled the strangers with all sorts of feasts, and not a day passed, on which some new rejoicing was not exhibited. At length the commanders of the vessels found an opportunity to discourse with him by himself, and said to him, we have known the good Solomon your father to be a model of wisdom and prudence, and we cannot comprehend how that, after having acquired so much riches by maritime commerce, he should have forbid you to continue it, and should have besides made you take an oath against it. It is easy to prove that it ought not to be valid, for great as are the riches which we have brought you, you

should know that your father has ten times as much beyond the sea; if then he has forbid you to go seek them, who can doubt that his understanding must have been impaired? especially as his age was so great. Take our advice, cause our sages to be assembled, and have yourself absolved of the oath, which you have made, and come to gather the fruit of your great inheritance in our company. Before our departure we will make provision of merchandize which is not to be had in those distant countries, and you shall judge yourself of the greatness of the gain which may be made of it, and you may then bring back here, that immense quantity of goods, which your father has left you, with which, after having enriched your family, you may also enrich our city, and our province. Nathan answered them, that he gave his word to his father, never to embark on the sea, that he would not violate his oath, and that he would make an eternal law of this paternal commandment. It seems to me, says he, that I still see him absolutely forbidding me, and he must have powerful reasons for preventing me from availing myself of such great riches. Though I may never possess them, I prefer obedience, and I am absolutely resolved to keep my promise to my father. One of the strangers looking at him with astonishment, said to him; is it possible that being so enlightened as you are, you should be so weak as to hesitate at a promise of this nature? Is it not evident that your father loved you more than his own life, since he encountered so many dangers through his love for you, and is it at all probable that after such great labours, which he has undergone to become rich, he should have rendered them useless, in prohibiting you from the means of being so likewise? No, no, added he, you will never persuade us, that your father died possessed of that spirit of wisdom, with which he has given us so many orders; undoubtedly he must have lost that wisdom, before his death, and that he became foolish and whimsical, both from his not informing you of

the particulars of the riches, which belonged to him, and from his preventing you by an oath from going to take possession of them. You however have it in your power to cause yourself to be absolved from this oath, and to put yourself in a state to enjoy those vast treasures, which are your own property." All the others applauded this exhortation, and Nathan himself then declared that at last he was persuaded by their reasons, and would depart with them whenever they thought proper.

In a few days they bought the merchandize which was requisite, and furnished a ship abundantly with the provisions which were necessary for so long a voyage. But they had scarcely reached the open sea, when dreadful blasts of wind howling about the ship, gave the unfortunate Nathan to understand that in neglecting the sanctity of his oath, and in violating the promise, which he had made to his father, he had at the same time renounced his peace of mind, and his happiness. God directed that a most violent tempest should arise, and the event was that the ship was dashed into a thousand pieces, the merchandize was lost, and all those who embarked with Nathan perished, to expiate the crime, which they had committed in preventing a son from keeping the promise which he had made to his father. Not one escaped from this dreadful shipwreck, except the unhappy Nathan, perjured as he was. God chose to preserve him still, perhaps to prove him by new misfortunes, and perhaps also to chastise him by punishments more severe than death. At length he reached the shore, naked as when he was born, and without any resources. He saw well that Heaven was in wrath against him, and that his misfortune was only the consequence of his bad conduct. He scarcely dared to raise up his eyes, his conscience felt a thousand stings, and secretly reproached him for being the cause of such great misfortunes. Pressed by want, and seeking somewhat to eat and drink, and to cover his nakedness, he passed a whole day without finding the least consolation,

nor any one who could point it out to him. He at last beheld a tree, which gave him some hope; for, says he, men must have planted this tree, I may find some of them, and perhaps also it may bear fruit, with which I may relieve my hunger. But the misfortune was, that he found neither men, nor fruit, and as the sun was so low, that scarcely half an hour of daylight remained, the wretched Nathan resolved to sleep beneath this tree, and to cover himself with the few leaves, which had fallen down, to defend himself from the cold of the night. Some hours afterwards he heard the roaring of a lion, and perceived this furious beast coming to devour him. His fear became extreme, his broken oath presented itself to his mind, and bathed in tears, he implored the pity of God to deliver him from the punishment of this cruel death. He then perceived some branches by which he could save himself, and it seemed to him that they were purposely bent downwards to sustain his arms while he raised his feet up to them; whereupon the lion, not being able to reach him, returned back roaring. Nathan returned thanks to God, with the same zeal as Daniel when he was delivered from the lions' den. Finding himself so miserably pressed by hunger, he thought that by climbing a little higher, he might perhaps get something to eat; but at the first attempt which he made, he met a prodigious bird of the owl kind; which terrified him, for it opened its beak wide enough to devour him; but what was laughable, in such a melancholy adventure, they were both afraid of each other, and at the first step which Nathan made to retreat, God suggested to him a method to save himself, which was to leap upon the back of the bird, and to seat himself with a leg at each side.

The owl being much surprized with this burden, did not move during the whole night, but at the break of day perceiving a man on its back, who held it firmly by the wings, excited by fear and anger, it resolved to depart from the tree, although it was much oppressed by the weight

of Nathan, whom it could not shake off. It made a great effort and got out of the hollow of the tree, which was apparently its nest, and flying with all its strength during the day over the wide ocean, it did not stop till the evening in a place where there were many people. It is easy to judge of the dreadful consternation of the wretched Nathan, on perceiving himself carried over the sea in such an extraordinary manner. His fear redoubled his devotion, and he prayed to God with all his heart to preserve him from such manifest danger. On approaching the earth he was greatly consoled by hearing the voice of some young people who chanted the 21st chapter of Exodus: *When you have bought a Hebrew servant*: which made him think he had got among Jews, and at the same time made him resolve to descend. Perhaps, said he to himself, they will have pity on me, and save my life, for which I will resign to them the little liberty which remains to me. As soon as he had resolved on this, he performed it; he took the first opportunity to throw himself to the ground, the owl flew away with one stroke of its wings, and Nathan fell down very near a door, which was that of a synagogue. It was two hours before he was able to move himself, his fall was so violent; he felt as if all his bones were broken, and his fast of two days had deprived him of all strength. At length however he took courage and drew himself as well as he could to the door of the synagogue; which having found to be shut, he began to cry out: Alas! open, open the gates of justice. A young servant came out and asked him who he was. I am a Hebrew says he, and an adorer of the true God: The young man having brought back this answer to his master, was ordered to make him come up. The master came to him immediately, and seeing a man entirely naked, and in a miserable plight, he asked him the particulars of such an extraordinary occurrence, and by what means he could have come to that land. Nathan related to him the details of all which had happened to him, and forgot nothing

of all the misfortunes to which he had been exposed. Ha, says the master, all you have hitherto suffered is nothing to what you will suffer here; how, says Nathan, are you not Jews, and do I not know, that the Jews are compassionate, their ancestors having always taught them to be so? They will then have pity on me wretched as I am, deprived of all I possessed, naked as you see, and dying with hunger. It is no use to dispute the matter so much, says the master, for this will not enable you to avoid the punishment of death. And wherefore master do you threaten me with this cruelty? Because this city is not inhabited by men, answered he, it belongs to Demons, and Lamiz; those children whom I instruct, are theirs, they are coming here directly to the usual prayers, but they shall no sooner have seen you, than they will kill you. It is easy to judge of the fear of Nathan, his heart was frozen, and he had but just strength to throw himself at the feet of the master, he kissed them, and bathed them with his tears, and besought him to aid him, and save his life; Alas, said he, I have always applied myself to study, I have always worshipped God with my whole heart, and I have only sinned in following the counsel of the unfortunate mariners, who seduced me to despise the advice of my father, and to violate the sanctity of my oath. These words had so great an effect, that they excited the pity of the master: raise yourself, says he to Nathan, and because you know the divine law, and have always applied yourself to study it, and since you feel an extreme repentance for the crime which you have committed, it is just to pardon you; you have, said he, embraced my feet, you have entreated me with all your might, and I promise to do whatever I can to deliver you.

He then caused him to enter into his house, and having given him food and drink, he conducted him into a chamber where he might conveniently pass the night, I do not know that he slept quite at his ease, but at least none of the demons came near him.

At the dawn of day the master came to seek his guest, and said to him, come with me into the synagogue, conceal yourself under the cloak, that I have given you, and do not open your lips till I speak to you; you shall see that I will do all in my power for your safety. He then introduced him into the synagogue, and covered him with his cloak. Scarcely had the sun appeared, when the demons came to the synagogue according to their custom. Ah wretched Nathan! what must you have suffered in seeing them at every side like flames of fire, and to hear close to you a kind of thunder, which threatened continually to destroy every thing. You however restrained yourself apparently more through the fear which had frozen your heart, than from respect to him, who had so humanely received you. You listened then to the demons who prayed to God, or at least, who repeated their morning prayers, as if they were real Jews.

At length one of these young demons who stood not far from the master, said to his comrade, that he perceived a man by his smell, and repeated it so often that many of the others heard him; upon this, a number of voices cried out, there he is beside our master! They had however so much respect for him, as not to go to seek what was concealed beneath his cloak. It was then that the master, who saw that the demons perceived his man, said to him who had just finished the psalms, I desire to speak to the assembly before you have completed the service. The demons then said with one voice, speak master, as your scholars, we are always ready to listen to you. I wish to intreat of you, says he, not to do any mischief to this man, who is come to take refuge with me. How could he do so said the demons, and what has brought him here? On this, the master related to them, all that had happened to Nathan, and gave them his history from the beginning to the end. No, no, said the demons, we will never suffer such a wicked man to live, who has broken the commandments of his father, and the sanctity of his oath, he must suffer death since he is so culpable, and

nothing can exempt him from this punishment. What, says the master, has he not suffered sufficient evils, and do you not think he has been well punished for his crime? Moreover cannot the profound knowledge, which he has acquired of the holy scriptures, procure him his pardon? can you believe him altogether worthy of death since the great God, whom we worship, has thought fit to deliver him from the shipwreck, the lion, the owl, and so many other dangers, which he has encountered. On this very account, said the demons, he should be deprived of life, he is absolutely unworthy of it, since knowing the law he did not obey his father, and did not keep his promise; no sins should be venial committed by a man of this nature, all should be mortal, and it seems that God only preserved him, to make him suffer a more cruel death under our hands. Know, said the master, that it is not permitted you to do this, according to the precepts of the divine law, since he is a learned man. Listen to my counsel and permit the chanter to publish that no one shall do him any injury before the end of our prayers, under the penalty of anathema, and when they are finished we will bring him to our king Asmodeus, who shall himself judge if this man is worthy of death, or if he should be absolved. All the company cried out with a loud voice, this counsel is very good, and we will follow it: and at the same time commanded the chanter to publish that no demon should ill use him who was concealed under the cloak, before that the king Asmodeus had cognizance of him.

The prayers were no sooner finished, than they seized Nathan, like a wretched criminal, and dragged him into the presence of Asmodeus.— Lord and king, said one of the number, here is a man who has fallen into our hands, who has sinned against our eternal God, and who has violated his oath in despising the commands of his father. They related to him his crimes and his adventures, and said that they would already have put him to death, if they had not had respect to those holy matters of

which he had such great knowledge. It is on this account we bring him to you, and submit him to your judgment. The king immediately had his council assembled, and said to them, here is a man accused of certain crimes, inform yourselves well of his deeds, and judge him to-morrow by the majority of voices; for as he is himself an interpreter of the divine law, it is just that you should judge him according to the law of Moses.

The council retired; examined the affair with all the care possible, and finally pronounced sentence of death against the accused. It is written in the law, said they, in Deuteronomy 26, v. 16, *Cursed is he, who despises his father or his mother.* There can be no doubt but that he has despised his father, since he has not observed his commandment; it is therefore just that he should suffer the penalty of his curse; but it is also certain that whoever is convicted of incurring the curse of his father ought also to be punished with death, as it is written in Samuel 1, c. 14, concerning Saul the son of Kish, who condemned his son Jonathan to death, because he had transgressed what was forbidden him under the penalty of his father's curse. In addition to this, one of these old counsellors observed, it is clear that the accused has broken his oath, and that the holy scriptures have pronounced judgment against those who do so, in Exodus, 20, c. 7, *God will not leave unpunished him who, &c.*

These reflections being made: the council went to seek Asmodeus, and gave him an account of the reasons which they had for pronouncing the sentence of death against the accused. The king said that they ought not to pronounce the sentence till the following day, for it is written in the law, in the book of Numbers, 30, c. 24, 25, *the judges shall judge him, and the judges shall deliver him.* By which it may be known, that one part of the council ought to condemn him, and the other part to acquit him. All the world knows this maxim of the Hebrew sages. *You who give judgment on capital matters always delay your sentence.*—

Moses himself, who was their great master, likewise delayed his decision, when he came to judge the man who had gathered wood on the Sabbath day, because he was not sufficiently certain that he ought to condemn him. The demons cried out you know you are our master, you have only to command us, our eyes only watch for your signs, and we shall obey you in every thing.

Then the king commanded that the accused should remain at his palace all that night, and forbid any one to put him to death, under the penalty of his indignation, until the sentence should be confirmed. Every one having retired; Asmodeus conversed with Nathan by himself, and asked him if it was true, that he was so learned in the holy scriptures, and in that interpretation of them, which the Jews call the mental law; and at the same time ordered the books of the law, the prophets, and the holy scriptures to be brought him; he also caused the second law, which is called the mandates of Mischa, to be fetched, along with the Talmud, which is its general commentary. And Asmodeus having made him interpret them, was persuaded that he was very learned, and said to him immediately; your learning has charmed me, I have no doubt that you are as wise as learned, and you may be assured I shall always be favourably disposed towards you. I only request one matter from you, that you would please to teach my son all the excellent things which you know, and I promise to deliver you from the hands of these demons, who I know have already conspired to put you to death. It is easy to judge that Nathan would find no difficulty in promising the king, what he demanded of him, and confirmed his promise by an oath. Listen then, said Asmodeus, and remember well the pleas which I am going to suggest to you, by which you may to-morrow defend yourself against the cruel sentence which our demons wish to confirm against you. Tell them that you are a judge, and a sage of great reputation, that you ought to be informed of their decree, and to examine into their cer-

sons for it. This difficulty will cause them to come and seek me to resolve it; give yourself no more concern, I will find a favourable point by which to save you.

The following day the council returned to Asmodeus, and said to him, by one of their most considerable senators; after having examined the case of the accused, we find no reasons for acquitting him. Nathan instantly replied, I understand the law at least as well as you, and perhaps better, therefore it is my right to examine if you have good reasons for this conclusion. There is nothing more just, replied the demons, and after having held a private council, they deliberated about sending him back to Asmodeus, for said they, he who has studied all his days, in the middle region of the air, and who has given himself the trouble besides to come to study in this lower academy, must be consummate both in the celestial and terrestrial law, and we can do no better than to remit him back to him. They came then to seek the king, and prayed him to give them his opinion; he replied with an air full of majesty, this man is not deserving of capital punishment, because what he has done was not the work of his own will, he never purposed to sin, and he had no evil intent in his actions: it was these wretched mariners who invited him to it, and in the end deceived him: do you suppose that God desires to punish the faults, which one has committed by compulsion? The proof of this is certain in Deuteronomy 20, 26, where the case of that girl is judged, who was overcome by force, these are the words, *punish not at all this girl*. Do you not see, added he, that this case is altogether similar? Has not our great eternal God caused those who were culpable to perish by the tempest, which he excited, and has he not saved this man? All the assembly were astonished at this reasoning, but however they followed his advice, and declared Nathan acquitted of all his crimes.

Asmodeus then retired into his palace, and having made a sign to Nathan to follow him, he bestowed on him

great honours, and placed his son in his hands, praying him to teach the holy scriptures and all the excellent matters which he knew. Nathan behaved very kindly to him, and showed him every bounty he could devise. Nathan remained in this employment for three years with an abundance of honours, favours. He came at last to Asmodeus, and presented his son to him, saying that he had taught all he had promised, and all better which he had learned during the course of his life. The father so well pleased, that he embraced Nathan, and bestowed on him the caresses imaginable, so much being obliged to lead his troops against a city which had withdrawn itself from its obedience, he called Nathan to command in his absence, he put him in possession of a palace, and of his goods; he gave him the key of his treasures, he commanded his subjects, and his servants to do nothing but by his orders. When Asmodeus had thus settled Nathan, he said to him, have no treasure of which you may not dispose, you may go every where except into this house, which I have no key, into which I absolutely bid you to enter. Asmodeus then departed to besiege the rebel city.

Nathan however thought more of this prohibition, than of the liberty which was granted him, for, said to himself, what can be in this house which I am thus forbid to see? I who may dispose of all the other treasures. One day walking before the door, he observed at the moment when it was opened, a girl of the most exquisite beauty sitting on a throne of gold, whom many other girls strove to divert by singing and dancing in the most agreeable manner. This lady perceived him, and said to him, why dost thou approach me in Nathan! He entered the house but he had scarcely arrived at her feet, when she said; "Ha wretch! why have you violated the command of my father Asmodeus? What business have you in this palace, where only women should enter? know that nothing can exempt you from punishment."

is day; for my father knows already at you have entered here, and I see him running speedily with a naked sword to kill you." Nathan threw himself at her feet, kissed them, and shed in tears, entreated her to pity him: save me, said he, beautiful teen, save me from this imminent danger, and from the wrath of your father: I protest to you I did not enter here with any bad design, and that I had not the least intention to behave with disrespect, to the beautiful girls, who have the honour to sit on you. The daughter of Asmodeus, who was called Mitra, looked on him with pity and said to him, your modesty charms me, and because you are so learned in the divine law, I wish to preserve you from the great dangers which threaten you. Depart then instantly from the palace, and when my father shall summon me, and shall overwhelm you with accusations, and shall say why have you disobeyed my commands? why have you entered into the palace of my daughter; and shall desire to kill; answer him; my lord, I entered into the palace from no other motive, but because I love your daughter so ardently that I cannot live without her, and that I can have no greater pleasure than to receive her in marriage. I am sure, added she, that these words will be very pleasing to him, and that he will wed me to you, for from the time that you have arrived in our land, he has frequently thought of making you his son-in-law, not being able to recompense more highly the excellence which you have acquired in the interpretation of the holy scriptures: and you know it is not proper that a girl of my rank should make love to a man, or that so great a king as my father should solicit you to take his daughter in marriage.

To be Continued.

Extract of a letter from Richard Lovell Edgeworth, esq. to a Member of the Committee for the improvement of Roads, &c. dated Edgeworth Town, 14th March, 1805.

I WITH pleasure communicate to you some hints on the subject

of wheel-carriages, which I had proposed to examine in detail, and to publish, with some new inventions; in the mean time, if they can be of any use to you, they are much at your service.

The problem to be solved is this.— Giving a certain road, how to construct a carriage so, that, every thing taken into consideration, it may be fit to carry the goods, required to be carried on that road, with the most convenience, and at the least expense.

The legislature will in all probability turn its attention chiefly to the means of preserving the roads, and this is undoubtedly an object of the utmost national importance; but then it is not to be considered as the only object, because the original price and the annual repairs of the road, fall ultimately, or ought to fall upon the persons who use the road: therefore, the original cost and the repairs of the public roads become part of the price of carriage to the consumer. If a number of manufacturers were to make a road for their own use and at their own expense, they would be led to consider, what kind of carriages would be the most suitable for the commodities they had to carry, what could be drawn by the fewest horses, what would cost least originally, and would become least subject to wear and tear; and lastly, what carriages would do the least injury to the road which they were to make, and keep in repair. The whole of these considerations may be resolved into this single question; what road and carriage will ultimately be the least expensive.

If a constant hourly traffic was to be carried on, our company would find iron railways by far cheaper than any other kind of road. Next to iron railways, pavement composed of large flat stones jointed with care, as in some parts of London, would be the best; but such stones, sufficiently hard, and sufficiently near the spot, cannot always be had. To supply their place, the hardest stone that can be procured should be broken into irregular fragments of various sizes, and laid upon the

road. The road should be first laid out in a regular and gentle curve, and be beaten or rolled, so as to be *equally* firm in all its parts. The goodness of the road depends more upon this circumstance than is usually imagined; for let the road be ever so hard and smooth at the surface, wherever the foundation is unsound, the superstructure will give way. After the road has been *laid* eight or ten inches deep with stone, it should be slightly covered with mixed gravel, the various sizes of which will fill up the interstices of the stones, and at once permit horses and carriages to travel conveniently; but daily attention should be paid to the road to fill every crevice with small stones, and to break every prominent stone into small pieces, over which amended spots some gravel should be sprinkled to cement the parts. In a short time the gravel will disappear, and the tops of the stones, the angles of which have been ground off, should be carefully broken with light hammers; the edges of the track made by carriages should in the same manner be broken down, and no pains should be spared to make the whole surface of the road equally hard and equally smooth. This appears to be a tedious process, but it will amply repay the time and labour bestowed upon it. Wherever there is a hill of any considerable acclivity, the road should be made much higher in the middle than on flat ground, to prevent water from running across the road, which in many places cuts the surface chequer-ways, as may be seen in Derbyshire and Wales, where the roads are hard.

If carriages, that are not too heavy for the strength of the materials, and wheels not so narrow as to cut the surface are used, and if these wheels are of a proper size and strength, and are skillfully applied to a convenient carriage, our partnership will have the cheapest mode of transporting their goods that can be obtained on land without the intervention of railways. Where hard materials cannot be found, the weight of the carriage must be diminished, and the wheels must be broader. What that weight and breadth should

be, may be determined by a knowledge of the relative strength of the materials, and this must be previously acquired by experiment. If in these roads, the gravel or stones are soon ground into powder, or squeezed into paste, the carriages commonly in use are too heavy for the materials of the road, and nothing but lightening the loads can remedy the evil. Where waggons and carts of different sizes travel, it may soon be discovered by examining their tracks, what weight the materials of the road are able to bear, and no weight beyond this should be permitted upon wheels of any breadth.

I have hitherto entered into no discussion of the mechanical advantages of wheels of different heights, forms, and breadths. I have seen a paper by my very ingenious and worthy friend Mr. Cumming, which was laid before the board of agriculture; this paper contained observations and deductions from experiment and theory, that determine many problems in the doctrine of wheel carriages. But the original source, from whence the most of what has been published in England is drawn, is a tract upon wheel carriages, entitled, "*Traité des Forces, Mouvantés, Par M. Camus, in 1722,*" and which is also inserted in the memoirs of the French academy. Part of this work is translated in Desaguliers. The principal points discussed are, the size of wheels, their breadth, their dishing, and their splay; that is to say, the obliquity of the spokes, and the deviation of the plane of the wheel from a perpendicular situation.

The runs of the wheels of a coach or waggon stand several inches farther asunder at the top than at bottom; the arms of their axle-trees bend downwards, so that if they were produced, they would touch the ground at no very great distance from the carriage. It is clear, that if one of these arms were cut off from the carriage with the wheel upon it, this wheel put in motion would not go straight forward, but would tend to describe a circle round the point where the arm touched the ground, and would continue to move round this point as long as it was kept in motion, without counteracting

its tendency to describe a circle. If the wheel on the other arm of the axle-tree were detached in the same manner, it would describe a similar circle (which would be the evolution of a cone) but in a direction contrary to that in which the other wheel would move, one wheel moving from right to left, and the other from left to right. Now a great force is requisite to oblige these wheels to go in straight lines; for while the wheel moves forward through space equal to the circumference of the circle which it would describe if at liberty, the sole of the wheel must slide on the ground by a twisting motion, through a space equal to the diameter of that circle.*

It is easy to calculate what this resistance would amount to; but I am only writing hints, not a treatise. Hitherto the best mode of carriage for a society of manufacturers has been considered, who could leave what distance they thought best between the wheels of their carriages. Let us now apply this to the public in general, who like a private company must ultimately pay the whole expense of the road, its repairs, and the cost of carriages, and horses, with their wear and tear. Now, the breadth of the track which wheels must keep is unlimited on a *private road*, and therefore the distance of their wheels may be such as to suit the convenience of the load without playing the wheels; but the breadth of the track of wheels on *public roads* is limited by law, so that to gain room for stowage, the tops of the wheels of a waggon must splay outwards.

Acts of parliament require that the wheels of stage waggons should be nine inches broad, and even give premiums for the use of broader wheels; and also for placing wheels so as to roll in different contiguous tracks; by which means parallel paths are made for the horses. This has the appearance of good sense; but I believe it is not well founded; and the various evasions which carriers

practise to avoid the law, is a strong presumptive evidence that it is injurious. From what has been said of a private road, it appears that the breadth of waggon wheels should be regulated by the mean of two considerations: the ease of the draft, and the preservation of the roads. If the carriage of ten thousand ton of goods upon the broadest wheels prescribed by parliament, wear out the road so as to require only one hundred pounds per annum to repair it; and if wheels of any other breadth wear the same road so as to require a thousand pounds to repair it in the same time; one thousand one hundred pounds at least should be saved to the public by the reduced price of carriage, which the cheapness and lightness of the narrow-wheeled waggons could afford, or else the public must lose. Besides this, the better condition of the roads for other carriages is an object of great importance; and where the roads are soon broken up by any sort of carriage, that carriage should be prohibited. It is plain, therefore, that the same breadth of wheels cannot be suited to all sorts of materials, and that where these are the hardest, the wheels may be narrower than where the materials of the road are softer. And that where a stage waggon goes through counties of different soils, and where different materials abound in different places, the wheels and weight to be carried must be adapted to the medium strength of the materials; but should in no case be such as to crumble them to pieces. It cannot be doubted, that where the roads are sufficiently hard to bear the pressure of narrow wheels, without being cut by them, they are more advantageous to the carriage, not only because they are cheaper, but because all the breadth of the wheel beyond what is necessary to prevent them from immediately injuring the road, is an incumbrance and weight which must be carried continually, not only upon level roads, but up-hill, without being of any use, instead of profitable loading. The inconvenience therefore of very broad wheels must, in many cases, be considered as a contribution paid

* Equal to the difference of the two circles described by the inner and outer edges of the rim.

by the carrier to preserve the roads, by rolling them and levelling the incipient ruts made by other carriages.

The legislature, in lowering the tolls of widely-rolling waggons, recognizes this theory; and they are permitted to pass toll free upon certain roads, and at certain times; they would undoubtedly be highly advantageous, as it would prepare the road for lighter carriages, would efface from time to time the impressions which they made, and would consolidate all the materials which might be disturbed by frost or heavy rain.

I shall not detain you with the theory of high and low wheels, as it is laid down in every treatise on mechanics. The higher the wheels the better, provided their centers do not stand further from the ground than the point of the shoulder of the horse; from this it may be deduced, that tall horses for drawing heavy loads are preferable to low ones of the same strength. For pleasure or expedition, smaller and more active horses are preferable, because it is their speed, and not their strength, that is exerted.

Five feet six inches is a proper height for narrow wheels on a good road, but broad wheels should not be above four feet six high, as they lose more by additional weight than they gain by additional height.

As to the *form* of a wheel, it should be *dished*, that is to say, the spokes should be placed obliquely in the nave, for the purpose of resisting the lateral pressure of the load, which, in sloping or rough roads, would otherwise force the nave sideways through the rim of the wheel.

Where wheels are placed nearly perpendicular, instead of *dishing*, the spokes have been placed sloping alternately towards and from the shoulder of the axle-tree. This practice has been followed, and laid aside at different periods, from caprice; but there is reason to suppose, that where wheels stand nearly upright, it is the best construction. For coaches, &c. there is an obvious objection to wheels of this form,

the naves cannot be made of so light and agreeable a form as in the common method.

Before I quit this subject, I shall mention one circumstance that has not, to my knowledge, been noticed by any author, relative to the *splaying* of wheels that are *dished*; the arm of the axle tree is so bent that when such wheels stand upon level ground, the spokes stand perpendicularly, and consequently are in the strongest situation to bear the superincumbent weight; this is commonly known. But besides this, as the spokes are driven into the nave as near as possible to the shoulder of the axle-tree, as may be easily conceived, by supposing that the spokes were driven into the wheel obliquely at the other end of the nave, for then the pressure would be entirely on the outward extremity of the axle-tree, and would act with a long lever against the axle-tree near its shoulder, a force that would soon break it, if it were not made much larger than it is at present.

The quantity of dirt taken up by wheels of different heights, breadths, and forms, should be attended to; it is in some places such as to increase the draft considerably.

The last of the three objects which I proposed to consider, is, the breadth of the wheels. As this relates as much to the kind of road upon which the wheels is to travel, it has already been considered in the beginning of my letter; but still the properties of a broad wheel rolling on a hard flat road should be noticed, as they may be applied to every modification of roads and wheels that occur in practice.

If a wheel of one-inch breadth were used in a common stage waggon, it would, even with a moderate weight, soon cut a deep rut in the road. If a wheel of two feet broad were used, it would press the parts of the road together, and would not, with the same weight, soon break or grind the materials, provided it were cylindrical, and placed upright on the road.

But as broad wheels never are so placed, they are pernicious and destructive when they exceed such

a breadth as will prevent them from making a visible hollow in the road the first time they roll upon it. I have reason to think that this breadth is about six inches, and that if the hind and fore wheels roll different tracks, other carriages might conveniently travel in their path.

Still the convenience of splaying the wheels will remain to tempt the waggoner, unless the breadth of the body of the waggon is contracted, the breadth of the track be extended, or the wheels lowered and placed under the body.

This last construction has considerable advantages, and was some years ago attempted by an ingenious mechanic, who published a book on the subject. These waggons were afterwards made and sold at the extensive and useful manufactory of Mr. Sharpe, 133, Tooley street, where I have seen and examined them. They did not succeed, because they were to be used on roads that were cut into ruts and tracks which continually impeded their progress; but I have little doubt of the utility of carriages of this construction, provided the wheels or rollers were made lighter, by adopting the common form of spoked wheels shod with iron (perhaps cast iron) rims six inches broad, rolling in different tracks, and three feet six inches in diameter.

Such a construction would be nearly one ton lighter than a common broadwheeled waggon, and would therefore be one-fifth more advantageous, because it would carry one-fifth more goods, without requiring any additional force to draw it; for in all cases the draft is the same, whether the weight of the waggon consists of the load, and of the parts of the waggon itself, of which the weight of the wheels is sometimes thirty-two or even thirty-five hundred. It is true that the weight of the wheels adds nothing to the friction of the axle-tree. But this is scarcely worth attention.

Where cylindrical wheels placed nearly upright are employed, the arms of the axle-tree where the boxes run, at the outside extremity of the arm, should be made not more than

half the diameter of the same arm at the shoulder, so that the shape of the arm would be cylindrical at the shoulder, cylindrical at the end next the linch-pin, and conical between these two cylinders. I believe this to be the best form of an axle-tree, and it is not necessary to turn it in a lathe; if hung between the points in a lathe, and set truly by the hammer and slightly filed, the friction of the boxes will soon polish the parts that touch.

There is still another construction of carriages preferable to any that I have yet mentioned. I proposed it forty years ago to the society for the encouragement of arts, &c. It has lately been adopted in several places, particularly at the slate quarries near Bangor; it consists in dividing the weight to be carried into two or more parts, and placing them on separate carriages attached to each other. Thus, one driver only is required, whereas, if the horses drew each carriage separately, one driver could not manage them on crowded roads or in cities.

I published, I believe in 1803, in Nicholson's journal, a paper upon iron railways for all sorts of carriages. I shall resume the subject at leisure, believing, as I do most firmly, that the art of printing will preserve and promote whatever inventions are really useful, and discard whatever is trifling and impracticable; I never hurry forward a proposal of this sort, but leave the public time to form, gradually, a proper judgment.

If I am wrong, my errors will be rectified; if I am right, my plans will be adopted.

One more consideration occurs to me, which is in fact much more applicable to carriages that move with velocity, than to the slow-paced waggon; I mean the effect of springs, and the bedding of the materials of which a carriage is made. In the transactions of the R. Irish academy, vol. 2,—1788, I published twenty years ago an essay on this subject, wherein I have demonstrated the utility of springs as they regard the ease of draft; in some cases lessening the resistance to the horses in a higher proportion than ten to one.

Now, although springs, such as those applied to coaches, cannot be usefully employed for heavy waggons, yet the timber of a waggon may be so adjusted as to yield to sudden shocks on rough roads or pavement.

Whoever observes the hinder part of a loaded waggon in motion, will perceive that the part of the body which projects beyond the hinder axle-tree, has a vibrating motion that eases the draft, and preserves what is carried in that part of the waggon from being so much shaken as what is placed over the axle-trees, or over the more unbending parts of the machine.

Indeed, whoever considers the subject even in a popular manner, must perceive, that the springs ease the horses as well as the rider; for, whatever jolting motion the latter receives, is communicated by the rising or falling of the carriage going over obstacles; the force of the horses alone produces this motion, and whatever lessens it lightens the horse's labour.

If sixteen people outside and inside of a stage coach are jolted upward even one-third of an inch in travelling one yard, it will require a constant force of twenty pounds to communicate so much motion to the carriage. The whole friction of the axle-trees does not obstruct the motion of the carriage much more than this slight vibration.

Now the springs commonly used diminish the resistance occasioned by such jolts above half, so that they are as advantageous as any contrivance that would lessen the friction of the boxes upon the axle-tree in proportion of two to one.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

Third Report of the Committee appointed to take into consideration the Acts now in force regarding the use of Broad Wheels, &c.

(Continued from p. 193, No. XX.)

REGULATIONS REGARDING TURNPIKE TRUSTS.

1. *Resolved*, THAT it is the opinion of this committee, that there be held in each

turnpike trust one general annual meeting of the trustees at the most convenient place, as near the centre of the said turnpike respectively as may be, in the months of September or October, for the purpose of examining and settling the accounts of the treasurers, clerks, surveyors and collectors; the appointments of new surveyors, and the necessary officers where vacancies have occurred, making contracts for letting tolls, repairing the roads, &c.

2. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that at the first meetings under the proposed act, two trustees be appointed in each trust by the majority then present, to examine the accounts and vouchers of the respective trusts, preparatory to their being laid before the trustees at the next annual meeting. That two trustees be constantly named for the like purpose at every subsequent annual meeting. That all officers be compelled to exhibit their accounts to the trustees so named, whenever called upon for examination. That no account be passed which shall not have been previously audited and signed by the trustees so appointed.

3. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that notice of such general annual meetings be given in the county paper, or in the paper in the most general circulation in the county, or in the gazette, for the neighbourhood of London, for three successive weeks before the holding of such meetings.

4. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that the trustees of every turnpike road shall be bound to exercise their trust impartially over the whole extent of road committed to their care, to keep so far as is practicable every part in an equal state of repair, and to apportion their net income according to an equal or an equitable distribution to every parish or district within their trust, according to the number of miles of turnpike within each district or parish. In cases where special reasons exist for allotting a greater proportion of road, or to any particular object of improvement, such reasons to be fully and distinctly entered in

minutes of the proceedings of a trust; such minutes, together with the accounts, to be submitted to the examiners of the accounts, and to be public inspection, as well on the day of settling the said accounts on any other day, on twenty-four days notice being given to produce them to the officer keeping the same; any person contributing in any manner towards the maintenance of the said roads:

6. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that the hours of business at turnpike meetings be limited to be from 10 to 4.

No. 8.

General Regulations.

1. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that the names of places of abode, of the owners of all carts and waggons, with the weight and quantities they are allowed to carry, be inscribed in legible Roman characters, a certain number of inches in length, on the off, on both sides of such carts and waggons.

2. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that mile-posts be set up either on the banks adjoining the turnpike roads, or by the side of the roads, of such convenient height as that the distance to the next post towns be distinctly engraven and painted on such part thereof as shall be six feet high at the least above the centre of the road; the most conspicuous situations to be chosen for fixing the said mile-posts, which are in all possible cases to be placed on the same side of the road.

3. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that direction-posts inscribed on both sides be set up where necessary, particularly at the junction of all highways leading from one parish into an adjoining parish.

4. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that the names of villages and towns be inscribed in legible characters at the entrance of such villages and towns, on all highways passing into or through the same.

5. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that all such inscriptions on waggons and carts, mile-

posts, direction-posts, villages and towns, be renewed when necessary, under adequate penalties.

6. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that the toll collectors' names shall be written or printed on the toll tickets.

7. *Resolved*, That is the opinion of this committee that every turnpike bill for making a new, or continuing an old turnpike road, do contain a provision for making a foot-path parallel to the road, of from four to six feet wide, independent of the space allotted to the turnpike; the breadth of such turnpike, including the space allotted to the foot path, to be regulated by the principle laid down in the first resolution under head 4, so that the breadth of such turnpike, including the space allotted to the foot paths, be not less than is thereby required, according to their respective distances from the metropolis.

8. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that magistrates assembled in quarter sessions be empowered in the meantime to take the necessary measures for gradually providing convenient foot paths where required for the accommodation of the foot passenger, either by the side of any existing turnpike road, or of any highway where they shall judge the same to be necessary, so that for this purpose they do not exceed the limitation prescribed by the first resolution of head 4, in the case of roads leading directly to London, nor make it necessary to widen any turnpike road, or highway beyond the distance of 200 miles from London, or not leading directly to London within that distance, beyond the breadth of 30 feet.

9. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee that whenever it is proposed to divert or stop up any existing highway or foot-path or path through any field or inclosure, notice of one month be previously given to the public; such notice not to prevent the order from being made, but to be proved, and the reasons for such diversion or stopping up to be submitted, to the magistrates, and approved, before the order be confirmed.

10. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that persons maliciously breaking down, defacing, &c. any bridge, or parapet, or coping of any fence alongside of the road, finger or guide post, mile-post, or inscription, or any other public property having relation to the highways of the kingdom, riding on the foot paths, willfully or negligently leaving heaps of broken or unbroken stones on the highway, leaving large single stones, or scattering small stones over the surface of the road to the endangering the lives of travellers, after regular notice to desist from such practice, or in any other manner offending against the provisions of the highway or turnpike laws, should be liable to the special penalties provided in each case, or where no penalties are provided, to penalties not exceeding £10, nor less than 5s. at the discretion of the magistrates before whom they shall be summoned.

11. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that a clause be inserted, to prevent stallions from covering near the highways, or being shown on a Sunday.

12. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that in cases where in the general turnpike act and any particular turnpike act appear contradictory, the general turnpike act should govern, unless where there is any special provision in the particular act repealing or varying the general act.

13. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that a plan and section of the intended road do accompany each petition for a new turnpike road, and that such plan do show distinctly the situations where turnpike gates are intended to be placed, and the tolls proposed to be taken at each, and do contain an accurate measure of distances.

14. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that each turnpike bill do contain a clause providing for the redemption of all monies to be borrowed for the execution of the purposes of the act.

15. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that in the case of any presentment or indictment of any highway being a turnpike road, the said presentment or indictment

should be preferred against the taker of such trust, instead of parish through which such roads run.

16. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that in cases of indictment, the parties to blame should pay all costs and charges out of pocket.

17. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that the jurisdiction of magistrates as to local management and superintendence of highways be limited to the divisions or divisions in which they are accustomed to act, but that the magistrates acting for any county immediately adjoining that in which any offence against the highway laws may have been committed, shall be empowered to act upon information or upon their own view, in enforcing the law cases where immediate interference may be necessary.

18. *Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, that all penalties not specially appropriated should be to the amendment of the highways of the parish, or to the turnpike where the offence has been committed.

CHARTER OF CARRICKFERGUS.

JAMES, by the grace of God, of England, Scotland, France, & Ireland, king, defender of the faith &c. To all to whom these our present letters shall come greeting whereas our most loving sister Elizabeth, late of England, France & Ireland, queen by her charter under the great seal of Ireland, bearing date at Dublin the 20th day of March in the 11th year of her reign, did give and grant for her, her heirs and successors, unto the mayor, sheriffs, burgesses and commonalty of the town of Carrickfergus in the county and town of Knockfergus, in the province of Ulster, and to their successors for ever, many privileges, liberties, franchises, markets, jurisdictions, forfeitures, customs, profits, commodities, cognizance of pleas, immunities, grants, and other benefits and hereditaments, as by the said letters, patent in the rolls of the chancery of our realm of Ireland, enrolled and therein recorded, remain more plainly, doth and may appear

and whereas, by the information of the said mayor, sheriffs, burgesses, and commonalty of the aforesaid town of Knockfergus, we do understand that they of long time past have had used and enjoyed many liberties, and free customs, and that they the said mayor, sheriffs, burgesses, and commonalty fearing that they should be molested, grieved, hindered or troubled in the like liberties and free customs for any defect of declaration, or expressing of the said liberties, and free customs, or by any other occasion in time to come, have most humbly prayed and intreated us that we would vouchsafe to grant to the said mayor, sheriffs, burgesses, and commonalty of the said town of Knockfergus, and their successors, the said liberties, and free customs, by special and express words in form following, and that they should be incorporated and made persons able and capable with a perpetual succession; we therefore to this their supplication favourably, in that part consenting for, and in consideration that the said borough of Knockfergus is a place very profitable for our ministry, and services, situated in a place very fit, as well for the repressing of our enemies, and rebels, and for the utter extirpating and breaking of their boldness and malice, as also to give help and comfort to our faithful and loyal subjects. Commemorating in those parts against any insurrection, rebellion and malice of our aforesaid rebels and enemies.

And for as much as both they and their predecessors have done and accomplished both unto us and our progenitors very many worthy and laudable services heretofore, after divers sorts, and especially that they have very humbly, and from time to time, with mind and consent, showed themselves most diligent and loyal in observing, and embracing our laws and statutes, know ye therefore that we graciously desiring the improvement of the said town, and the commodity and profit of the inhabitants of the same, and withall considering the many losses, destructions, and hurts they have suffered and sustained through the occasions of the detestable rebellions in those parts; of

our special grace, certain knowledge and mere motion, and with the advice and consent of our noble lord, and trusty counsellor Sir Arthur Chichester knight, deputy general of our realm of Ireland, as also by the tenor and effect of certain of our letters with our own proper hand signed bearing date at our manors of Farnham, the last day of July, in the year of our reign of England, France, and Ireland the seventh, and of Scotland the three and fortieth, and now in the rolls of our chancery, in our said realm of Ireland enrolled, and there remaining upon record, have confirmed, ratified, and allowed; and by these presents do for us, our heirs and successors (as much as in us lieth) confirm, ratify, and allow unto the said mayor, sheriffs, burgesses, and commonalty of the said town of Knockfergus, and to their successors for ever (by what name

_____ of a corporation or by what other name soever they in any other letters patent of any other our progenitors or predecessors, or by any other lawful manner, are incorporated, named, termed, or called, or ever, or heretofore were incorporated, named, termed, or called, all, and all manner of privileges, as wholly as it is in the same letters, patents, or in any of them contained or in as ample manner and form as they themselves, or their predecessors at any time have had, held, occupied, or enjoyed, or ought to have by means of any lawful permission, use, or custom, although they or their predecessors, or any of them, have ill used the premises or any of them. And furthermore of the like, our special grace, and of our certain knowledge and mere motion, give and grant for us, our heirs and successors to the said mayor, sheriffs, burgesses and commonalty of the said town of Knockfergus, and their successors, and by these presents for us, our heirs and successors, we will ordain, constitute, and declare, that the said town of Knockfergus and all and singular the castle, towns, villages, hamlets, lands, tenements, meadows, pastures, feedings, waters, moores, rivers and all other hereditaments whatsoever, lying and being

within the said town of Carrickfergus, or within the burgages, franchises, mears and limits of the said town of Knockfergus, as well within the walls of said town as without; for ever after shall be one a whole and free borough, and that there shall be nominated, named and called for ever hereafter, the free borough of Knockfergus.

And we do from henceforth, erect, constitute and make, and by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors, do create them all to be one whole borough, and that the mayor, sheriffs, burgesses, and commonalty of the aforesaid borough or town of Knockfergus, and all the free inhabitants within the burgages, franchises, mears or limits of the same borough or town of Knockfergus, as well those which now are free as those which shall hereafter be elected and admitted free burgesses of the said town, and their successors for ever hereafter shall be by vigour of these presents, one body politick, incorporated both in matter, word and deed, by the name of mayor, sheriff, burgesses, and commonalty of the town of Knockfergus, and that the said mayor, sheriffs, burgesses, and commonalty of the said town of Knockfergus and their successors, from time to time for ever as often as need shall require, may have full power and authority upon any summons, warrant or writ, directed to them by us our heirs or successors, to choose send and return two honest and discreet men, being burgesses of the same borough or town, to all and every parliament which ever hereafter shall be held within our said kingdom of Ireland, and that the said men so elected, sent and returned, shall have full power and authority to handle, consult, and take counsel upon all such things and matters as to them and others, there shall be expounded or declared, and upon the same to yield their voice and opinions, and to do and execute all other things whatsoever, which is, or are accustomed to be done or executed, at or in parliament, as fully and freely as any other burgesses of any ancient borough, either in our said realm of

Ireland, or England, are accustomed to do or execute.

And furthermore of our mere free especial grace, certain knowledge and mere motion, we do give and grant by these presents, for us, our heirs, and successors, for the said mayor, sheriffs, burgesses, and commonalty of the said town of Knockfergus, and for their successors, that the aforesaid borough or town of Carrickfergus. And all and singular the manors, castles, towns, villages, hamlets, lands, tenements, waters, rivers, meadows, moors, and all other hereditaments whatsoever, within the burgages, franchises, mears or bounds of the same; as well within their enclosed and arable lands, as without, for ever hereafter shall be one whole county by itself, both in word and deed, and the same shall be for ever hereafter distinguished and thoroughly separated both from our county of Antrim, and from all other counties; and that it shall be from henceforth for ever hereafter nominated, termed and called by the name of the county of the town of Knockfergus, provided always that our castle of Knockfergus and a certain other place within the said borough or town appointed for a gaol or prison, there to be built for keeping and conserving of prisoners and other malefactors whatsoever from time to time in, or whether the limits or bounds of our county of Antrim aforesaid, shall be altogether as now they are, and heretofore have been, any thing in these presents contained to the contrary notwithstanding; and that our justices, or the justices of our heirs and successors for taking of Nisiprius—or assizes in the said county of Antrim, and assigned by us, our heirs and successors, as justices for gaol delivery in the said county of Antrim, for the hearing and determining of all treasons, murders, burnings, manslaughterers, felonies, rapes, crimes, offences, actions, and all other things whatsoever perpetrated or done in said county of Antrim, from time to time, and the justices appointed by us, our heirs and successors, for the keeping or conserving of our peace, in our said county of Antrim for

the holding of their sessions, as also the sheriffs of said county of Antrim for the time being, for the keeping and holding of his county courts, turnes, and other courts from time to time for ever, and all other justices, commissioners, and officers of ours, or of our heirs and successors to inquire, hear and determine, or do any thing for us, our heirs and successors in the said county of Antrim, that they and every of them for the keeping and holding of their courts and sessions, may lawfully, freely and surely enter and go into the said town of Knockfergus, and to pass through the same town till they come to our said castle of Carrickfergus, and therein or at our said castle of Carrickfergus to hold and keep the courts and sessions for all things and matters without the said county of Knockfergus, and within the county of Antrim from time to time for ever, as heretofore they have held, or were accustomed to hold, or might hold the same; and that all and every our sheriffs, and the sheriffs of our heirs and successors of the said county of Antrim for the time being for ever, as also all constables or keepers of our gaol, or the gaol of our heirs or successors of the county of Antrim aforesaid, for the time being, for ever may be able to have and to hold one gaol or prison, within the town of Knockfergus aforesaid, in some certain convenient place, appointed for the keeping of the prisoners of the said county of Antrim, and in the said gaol to have, hold and imprison, and faithfully keep all and every malefactor and prisoners of the county of Antrim aforesaid; the custody or keeping of whom, or of any one of them being heretofore committed, or at any time hereafter, to be committed unto them for any faults, offences, crimes, things or matters perpetrated, committed or happened within the said county of Antrim, or touching or concerning the same, and not for any fault, offences, crimes, things or matters perpetrated, done or happened in or within the county of the town of Knockfergus aforesaid, or concerning the same county of Knockfergus, though our present grant in any thing notwithstanding.

And we further will and by these presents for us our heirs and successors, grant and ordain, that for ever hereafter there may and shall be within the said town of Knockfergus, one chosen or elected of the more honest and discreet men of the inhabitants within the said town of Carrickfergus, after such form and manner as hereafter is specified in these presents which shall be, and be nominated mayor of the town of Knockfergus, and that there in like manner may and shall be within the same town besides the mayor of the said town for the time being, 16, 15, 14, 13, 12, 11, 10, 9, or 8 of the most honest and discreet of the inhabitants of the same town chosen and elected after such form as hereafter in these presents is mentioned, which shall be, and be called aldermen of the same town, and that they shall be of the common and chief council of the same town of Knockfergus, and we will and by these presents for us, our heirs and successors, grant that the aforesaid aldermen shall be from time to time assisting and helping unto the said mayor of the town of Knockfergus for the time being in all causes and matters touching or concerning the said town, and for the better execution of this our will and grant in that part and behalf we have assigned, constituted, nominated and made, and by these presents for us our heirs and successors, do assign, constitute, nominate and make our well beloved Robert Lyndon now mayor of the same town, and agent of the said town to be mayor of the said town of Knockfergus, willing that the said Robert Lyndon in the office of mayor of the aforesaid town, shall be and continue from the making of these presents until the feast of St. Michael the Archangel, next ensuing the date of these presents, and from thence until some other of the inhabitants of the aforesaid town be sworn and perfected in the office of mayor of the same town according to the orders and customs in these presents, hereafter expressed and declared. And furthermore of our more free grace, we have granted, and by these presents for us, our heirs and

successors, do grant to the said Robert Lyndon, mayor of the aforesaid town, and to his successors mayors of the said town for the time being; that both he and they may have, and shall have the keeping, ruling and free governing as well of the town of Knockfergus aforesaid, and the franchises thereof, as of the burgesses and inhabitants of the same town, and of their successors; for and during such time, and so long as they or any of them shall continue, or be in the office of mayoralty of the same town according to the statutes, ordinances and customs of the same town, and further we have assigned, constituted and made, and by these presents for us, our heirs and successors, do assign and constitute, and make sixteen of the most honest and discreet men of the inhabitants of the same town, which now are aldermen of the same town that they may and shall be aldermen of the same town of Knockfergus, and that they shall be continued in the same offices during their natural lives, unless in the mean time, for some reasonable cause or matter they or any of them shall be removed from the aforesaid offices, we have likewise assigned, constituted and made, and by these presents for us, our heirs and successors, do assign, constitute and make all and every one who now are free burgesses and inhabitants of the same town that they shall be the burgesses and commonalty of the same town of Carrickfergus.

And we have by these presents for us, our heirs and successors erected, made, constituted, ordained and declared the said mayors, sheriffs, burgesses and commonalty of the town of Knockfergus, shall be one incorporate body, politic both in matter deed and name, really and at full, and that by the same name they shall have a perpetual succession, and that they and their successors by the name of sheriffs, burgesses and commonalty of the town of Knockfergus may, and shall be for ever times to come, persons able in the law, and capable to have, purchase, receive and to possess land, tenements, liberties, privileges, preeminencies, jurisdictions, franchises and heridita-ments whatsoever, in fee for ever;

and also goods and chattles, and whatsoever other things of what kind, nature or sort soever they be, and also to give, grant, demise, and assign lands, tenements, goods and chattles of what kind, nature or sort soever, and to do and execute all other things and deeds by the name aforesaid. And that by the same name the sheriffs, mayor, burgesses, and commonalty of the town of Knockfergus may, and can be able to plead, and be impleaded; to answer, and to be answered; to defend, and to be defended before us, our heirs and successors, and in any courts, benches, or places whatsoever, and before any as well ecclesiastical as civil judges, and justices, commissioners and other officers of ours, or of our heirs and successors, and all others whatsoever in or concerning all complaints, suits, pleas, causes, matters and demands whatsoever, of whatsoever sort, nature or kind; and also have, perceive, receive, possess, give, grant, and demise, and in the same manner and form as others, our people of our kingdom of England or Ireland personable and capable in the law, may, or can, and that the said mayor, sheriffs, burgesses, and commonalty of the town of Knockfergus aforesaid, and their successors ever may be able and of power to have and use one common seal which shall serve them and their successors for the making of their deeds, causes or matters, and one other seal of the office of the mayoralty of the said town, to be and remain in the custody of the mayor of the said town for the time being, for to seal any manner of testimonials, certificates, attachments and processes whatsoever, and that it shall and may be lawful for the said mayor, sheriffs, and commonalty of the said town, and for their successors to break the said seals, or any of them from time to time at their will and pleasure, and to make another or other seals of new as to them shall seem best.

And we further will, and by these presents for us, our heirs and successors give and grant unto the said mayor, sheriffs, burgesses, and commonalty of the town of Knockfergus aforesaid, and to their successors, that they and their successors, or

greater part of them, whereof we will that the mayor for the time being, shall be one from time to time for ever, that upon public summons made by the mayor for the time being, and they thereto being once gathered, or upon all and every the days of the common assemblies in their courts, at the usual days and times, according to the ancient customs of the town and borough aforesaid held, that they may have full power and authority from time to time, as often and at all times when it shall seem good or expedient unto them to erect, constitute, ordain, and make such reasonable laws, statutes, constitutions, decrees and orders in writing as shall seem to them in their discretion to be both good, healthful and profitable, honest and necessary for the good ruling and governing of the said town, and of all and singular the officers, ministers, burgesses, artificers, inhabitants, and of all other residing in the said town for the time being, and also for declaration how, and after what manner or order they the said mayor, sheriffs, burgesses, and commonalty, and all and singular the other officers, burgesses, artificers, inhabitants, and all other residing in the said town, have used, carried and behaved themselves in their offices, functions, ministries, crafts, occupations, and other businesses for the uttermost public good, common profit, and good government of the same town, and for the victualling of themselves, and for any other cause, matter or thing any way touching or concerning the aforesaid town, and whensoever, or how often soever as the said mayor, sheriffs, burgesses, and commonalty of the aforesaid town for the time being, or the greater part of them (as is aforesaid) have erected, made, constituted, ordained and established

such and the like laws, statutes, constitutions, decrees, and ordinances, that then likewise they shall be able of power to make, limit, ordain, and provide in form aforesaid, such and the like reasonable pains, punishments, and penalties by imprisonment, or by any other corporal punishment, or by fine, forfeiture, amercement, or by fine of money, or by both upon and against all offenders or breakers of such laws, statutes, constitutions, decrees and orders, or of any one of them as to the said mayor, sheriffs, burgesses, and commonalty of the aforesaid town, or to the greater part of them, whereof we will that the mayor of the said town shall be one, as shall seem to be most necessary, fit, and requisite for the observation of the said laws, statutes, constitutions, decrees and ordinances; and that they shall be from time to time both able and of power to execute the said pains, penalties, and punishments, and to execute the said laws, statutes, constitutions, decrees, and ordinances, and the same to command, or cause to be commanded from time to time to be put in execution, and likewise able and of power to levy, and have the said fines, amercements, forfeitures, and fines of money to the use and behoof of the said mayor, sheriffs, burgesses, and commonalty of the town of Knockfergus aforesaid, and their successors without any let or impediment either of us, of our heirs, and successors, without giving or rendering any account or any thing else unto our heirs or successors, for the same, and all such laws, statutes, and constitutions, decrees and ordinances to be made as aforesaid, we will that they be observed and kept upon such pains as in them contained, provided always that the said laws, statutes and ordinances be not contrary to the laws and statutes of our realm of Ireland.

To be Continued.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF DISTINGUISHED PERSONS.

AN ACCOUNT OF GILBERT WAKEFIELD,
B.A. WRITTEN BY DR. AIKEN, AND
PUBLISHED IN THE LONDON MONTHLY
MAGAZINE, OCTOBER 1801.

GILBERT Wakefield was born on
February 22, 1756, at Nottingham,

of which town his father was one of the
parochial clergy. An uncommon solidi-
ty and seriousness of disposition marked
him from infancy, together with a power
of application, and thirst after
knowledge, which accelerated his

progress in juvenile studies. In his grammatical course he passed under the tuition of several masters, the last and most respectable of whom was the Rev. Mr. Wooddson, of Kingston-upon-Thames, to which parish his father was then removed. He was used however, to lament that he had not possessed the advantages of an uniform education at one of those public schools, which undoubtedly, whatever may be their dangers and deficiencies, effect the point at which they exclusively aim, that of laying a solid foundation for classical erudition in its most exact form. In 1772 he was entered as a scholar of Jesus-college, Cambridge; and it was ever a topic of thankfulness to him, that he became a member of that university in which the love of truth met with some encouragement from a spirit of liberal inquiry, rather than of that which was devoted either to supine indolence, or to the passive inculcation of opinions sanctioned by authority. During the first years, his attention was chiefly fixed upon classical studies, always his favourites; and he was excited only by emulation and academical requisitions to aim at that proficiency in mathematical knowledge which bears so high a value at Cambridge. Yet while he confesses himself destitute of a genuine taste for speculations of this kind, he scruples not to declare the infinite superiority, in point of grandeur and sublimity, of mathematical philosophy, to classic lucubrations. In 1776, he took his degree of B.A. on which occasion he was nominated to the second post among seventy-five candidates; and soon after, he was elected to a fellowship of his college. In the same year he published a small collection of Latin poems, with a few critical notes on Homer, at the university press. If not highly excellent they were sufficient to establish the claim of a young man to more than ordinary acquaintance with the elegancies of literature. He had already obtained a knowledge of the Hebrew language, as preparatory to those theological studies which now became his most serious occupation; and it may safely be affirmed that no man ever commenced them with

a mind more determined upon the unbiassed search after truth, and the open assertion of it when discovered. The foundation which he laid for his inquiries was an accurate knowledge of the phraseology of the scriptures, acquired by means of attention to the idiom in which they were written. As at this time some of his most esteemed academical friends, manifested their dissatisfaction with the articles of the Church of England, by a conscientious refusal of subscription, it cannot be doubted that scruples on this point had already taken possession of his mind; and so far had his convictions proceeded, that he has stigmatized his compliance with the forms requisite for obtaining deacon's orders, which he received in 1778, as "the most disingenuous action of his whole life." If, indeed, he could receive consolation from the practice of others, there were several of his intimate associates, who by a superiority to such scruples, have since risen to opulence and distinction in the church, without betraying any uneasiness for a similar acquiescence.

Mr. Wakefield left college after ordination, and engaged in a curacy at Stockport, in Cheshire, whence he afterwards removed to a similar situation in Liverpool. He performed the duties of his office with seriousness and punctuality; but his dissatisfaction with the doctrine and worship of the church continuing to increase, he probably considered his connection with it as not likely to be durable. The disgust he felt at what he saw of the practice of privateering, and the slave-trade, in the latter place of his residence, also awakened in his mind that humane interest in the rights and happiness of his fellow creatures, which has made so conspicuous a part of his character. The American war did not tend to augment his attachment to the political administration of his country: in short, he became altogether unfit to make one of that body, the principal business of which, in the opinion of many, seems to be, acting as the satellites of existing authority, however exerted. His marriage, in 1779, to Miss Watson, niece of the

rector of Stockport, was soon followed by an invitation to undertake the post of classical tutor at the dissenting academy at Warrington, which he complied. He was regarded as a very valuable acquisition to this institution, and was exemplary in the discharge of his duty, and equally gained the attachment of his pupils and the friendship and esteem of his colleagues. Being now freed from all clerical shackles, he began his career as a theological controversialist; and, it must be confessed, with an acrimony of style, which was lamented by his friends, and which laid him open to the reproach of his enemies. It is not here intended to vindicate what the writer himself cannot but disapprove; but the real and substantial kindness of Mr. Wakefield's temper, and the benevolence of his heart were such, that this apparent contradiction must be solved by his warmth of zeal in what he thought the cause of truth, and perhaps by a familiarity with scholastic debates, which rendered him in some measure callous to the use, or rather abuse of vituperative expressions from the press. In disputations by word of mouth no man was more calm and gentle, more patient in hearing, or more placid in replying; and if, in his writings, he has without hesitation or delicacy bestowed his censures, he has been equally liberal and decided in his praise. His applauses evidently came from the heart, free and unstinted, for envy did not possess a single particle in his composition; nor has he withheld them when he thought them deserved by particular laudable qualities, even in characters which he could not regard with general approbation. No man, perhaps, ever more fully gave way to the openness of his disposition in speaking the whole truth concerning men and things, unmoved by common considerations; whence it is not to be wondered at, that he frequently rendered himself more obnoxious to antagonists than the case essentially required, and roused prejudices which a more guarded conduct would have left dormant. A sentence which, in his memoirs, he has quoted from Asgill, expresses (as it was probably meant to do) the

spirit with which he wrote. "A blunt author in pursuit of truth, knows no man after the flesh, till his chace is over. For a man to think what he writes, may bespeak his prudence; but to write what he thinks, best opens his principles."

We shall not in this sketch, attempt to give an account of all his publications, many of them small in bulk and temporary in their application. The most important of his theological labours will be allowed to be those in which he employs his singular erudition in the explanation of Scripture. Of these, the first was "A New Translation of the First Epistle of Paul, the Apostle, to the Thessalonians," printed in 1781. It was followed in the next year by "A New Translation of St Matthew, with notes, critical, philological, and explanatory," &c. a work which obtained much applause, and amply displayed the extent of his reading, and the facility with which his memory called up its repositied stores for the purpose of illustration or parallelism. At this time he likewise augmented his fund for scripture interpretation by the acquisition of various oriental dialects. After quitting Warrington, at the dissolution of the academy, he took up his residence successively at Bramcote in Nottinghamshire, at Richmond, and at Nottingham, upon the plan of taking a few pupils, and pursuing at his leisure those studies to which he became continually more attached. While in the first of these situations, he published the first volume of "An Inquiry into the Opinions of the Christian Writers of the three first Centuries concerning the Person of Jesus Christ," a learned and elaborate performance, but which did not meet with encouragement sufficient to induce him to proceed in the design. A painful disorder in his left shoulder, with which he was attacked in 1786, and which harrassed him for two years, interrupted the course of his employments; and he could do no more for letters during that period, than alleviate his sufferings by drawing up some remarks upon the Georgics of Virgil and the poems of Gray, which he published with edi-

tions of those delightful compositions. As his health returned, his theological pursuits were resumed, and he again engaged in the field of controversy. He also in 1789, made a commencement of a work which promised much, as well for his reputation, as for the advantage of sacred literature. It was "an Union of Theological and Classical learning, illustrating the Scriptures by Light borrowed from the Philology of Greece and Rome." Under the title of "*Silva Critica*" three parts of this performance have issued from the university press of Cambridge.

The formation of a dissenting college at Hackney, which, it was hoped, by the powerful aid of the metropolis, would become both more considerable and more permanent than former institutions of a like kind, produced an invitation to Mr. Wakefield to undertake the classical professorship. With this he thought proper to comply, and accordingly, in 1790, he quitted his abode at Nottingham, and removed to Hackney, upon the plan of joining with public tuition the instruction of private pupils. He has himself informed the public that "both of these anchors failed him, and left his little bark again afloat on the ocean of life."—It is neither necessary nor desirable to revive the memory of differences between persons really respectable and well intentioned, but under the influence of different habits and views of things. We shall confine ourselves to a remark or two.

Mr. Wakefield was a person who derived his opinions entirely from the source of his own reason and reflection, and it will not be easy to name a man who stood more single and insulated in this respect throughout life than he. Although his principles had induced him to renounce his clerical office in the church of England, and he had become a *dissenter* from her doctrine and worship, yet he was far from uniting with any particular class of those who are usually denominated *dissenters*. He had an insuperable repugnance to their mode of performing divine service; and he held in no high estimation the theological and philosophical know-

ledge which it has been the principal object of their seminaries of education to communicate. It has already been observed, that the basis of his own divinity was philology. Classical literature, therefore, as containing the true rudiments of all other science, was that on which the greatest stress should be laid, in a system of liberal education. This point he inculcated with an earnestness which probably appeared somewhat dictatorial to the conductors of the institution.

Further, in the progress of his speculation, he had been led to form notions concerning the expediency and propriety of public worship extremely different from those of every body of Christians, whether in sects or establishments; and as he was incapable of thinking one thing and practising another, he had sufficiently made known his sentiments on this subject, as well in conversation, as by abstaining from attendance upon every place of religious assembly. They who were well acquainted with him, knew that in his own breast piety was one of the most predominant affections; but the assembling for social worship had for so many ages been regarded as the most powerful instrument for the support of general religion, that to discourage it was considered as of dangerous example, especially in a person engaged in the education of youth. Notwithstanding, therefore, his classical instructions in the college were received by the students almost with enthusiastical admiration, and conferred high credit on the institution, a dissolution of his connection with it took place in the summer of 1791.

The subsequent publication of his pamphlet on Public Worship deprived him (as he says) of the only two private pupils he expected. From that period he continued to reside at Hackney, in the capacity of a retired man of letters, employing his time partly in the education of his own children, partly in the composition of works which will perpetuate his name among those who have cultivated literature with most ardour and success. His "*Translation of the New Testament, with Notes*," 3 vols. 8vo. appeared towards the close of 1791, and was

very respectably patronised. In language it preserves as much as possible of the old version. Its numerous deviations from that in sense, will be regarded as happy alterations or bold innovations, according to the prepossessions of the reader. A long it might be given of his succeeding labours, but we shall only particularize some of the most considerable. He printed (no longer at the Cambridge-press) two more parts of his "*Silva Critica*." He gave a new edition, much corrected, of his "*Translation of the New Testament*;" and besides, proved his zeal for Christianity, by enlarging a former work "*On the evidences of the Christian religion*," and by replying to Thomas Paine's attack upon it in his "*Age of Reason*."

To the works of Pope, as our most cultivated English poet, and the most perfect example of that splendour and elasticity of diction which is not attained without much study of the poetic art, Mr Wakefield paid particular attention. It was his design to have published a complete edition of his works; but after he had printed the first volume, the scheme was rendered abortive by Dr. Warton's edition. He however printed a second volume, entitled, "*Notes on Pope*," and also gave a new edition of Pope's "*Iliad and Odyssey*." In these publications he displayed all that variety of comparison and illustration, that power of tracing a poetical thought through different authors, with its successive shades and improvements, and that exquisite feeling of particular beauties, which distinguish him as an annotator of the writers of Greece and Rome.

As a classical editor he appeared in a selection from the Greek tragedians, in editions of Horace, Virgil, Sion and Moschus, and finally, in his "*Lucretius*," a vast performance, which alone might seem the labour of many industrious years. Of his character, as a man of letters, I have been favoured with the following estimate by an able judge, the Revd. E. Logan, of Chesnut:

"In extent of erudition, particularly if an acquaintance with the Ori-

ental languages be taken into the account, he was perhaps inferior to no man of the present age; and they who have been considered as having had the advantage over him in some of the less important *minutiæ* of Greek literature, have probably limited their attention to fewer objects, and certainly commenced their literary course with a more advantageous preparation. In conjectural criticism he exhibits much of the character of Bentley and Markland: men whom he esteemed according to their high deserts in that species of learning to which his own mind was peculiarly directed. Like these illustrious scholars, he is always learned, sometimes bold, and frequently happy. Like them he had a mind which disdained to be held in a servile subjection to authority; and in defiance of established readings, which too often substitute the dreams of transcribers for the gems of antiquity, he followed without fear, wherever reason and probability seemed to lead the way. In his earlier critical works he exhibited, amidst some errors which his riper judgment discarded, the promise of his future greatness; and even his faults were the infirmities of genius; they flowed from that ardour and enthusiasm which cannot always wait for the slow decisions of cool inquiry. They were faults which though they afforded a small consolation to dull malignity, did not diminish his praise in the estimation of one solid and impartial judge. His favourite study was poetry, and in an extensive acquaintance with the ancient poets, both Greek and Roman, few men since the revival of letters have equalled him, and no one ever surpassed him in the perception of their beauties. When he applies to them the hand of conjecture, he rarely fails to give new spirit and animation by his touch; and where we are obliged to dissent from his corrections, we are sometimes sorry for the credit of the poet that he does not appear to have written what the critic has suggested. He was peculiarly fond of tracing an elegance of poetical expression through the various modifications which it assumed in the hands of different writers, and

in the illustration of ancient phraseology he did not overlook the poets of his own country, with many of which he was very familiar. His great work is undoubtedly his edition of "Lucretius," a work which ignorance may despise, at which malice may carp, and hireling scribblers may rail, but which will rank with the labours of Heinsius, Gronovius, Burman, and Heyne, as long as literature itself shall live. It will share the prediction with which Ovid has graced the memory of the great poet himself,

Carmina, sublimis tunc sunt peritura Lucreti,

Exitio terras cum dabit una dies.

Besides its critical merit it exhibits the richest display of the flowers of poetry that ever was presented to the world, and will amply reward the perusal of every man who has sensibility to relish the finest touches of human genius.

"Mr. Wakefield, even before this immortal specimen of his talents, was deservedly held in the highest estimation by the literati of Germany;—and if his honours at home have not equalled his reputation abroad, the candid mind will easily find the explanation of this phenomenon in the violence of political party, and the mean jealousy which has too often disgraced the scholars of Great Britain. The name of Bentley is connected with proof enough of the justice of this insinuation."

I shall now proceed to an incident of his life which shall be viewed with regret by the ingenuous of all parties: the additional sensations it inspires will, of course, be different according to the particular sentiments of individuals. It has already been hinted that Mr. Wakefield, from the time of his residence at Liverpool, had begun to imbibe a detestation of that policy which trampled upon the rights of mankind, and was founded upon unfeeling avarice and unprincipled ambition. His study of Christianity more and more convinced him that the maxims of the world and those of religion were in direct opposition: and in common with many other excellent and learned men, he became persuaded of the absolute

incompatibility of war with the christian character. He had moreover received those principles of the origin and end of government, which, however they may now be regarded, were once thought fundamental to the British Constitution, and the basis of all civil liberty. He had occasionally, in the political contests of his country, publicly expressed his opinions upon these subjects; but the French revolution was an event calculated to call forth all his ardour in the cause. His sanguine temper led him to consider it as the undoubted common cement of a better order of things, in which rational liberty, equitable policy, and pure religion, would finally become triumphant.—He watched its progress with incredible interest, excused its unhappy deviations, and abhorred the combination of arbitrary power which threatened its destruction. It was impossible that he should refrain from employing his pen on the occasion, or that he should do it with a "cold and unperforming hand." In his "Remarks on the General Orders of the Duke of York," he had arraigned the justice of the war with France, in terms which are supposed to have exercised the utmost forbearance of the ministry. But in his "Reply to some parts of the Bishop of Landaff's Address," he passed those limits. From that systematic progress in restraining the free communication of political opinions which may be traced in the acts of the late ministry, it is not unreasonable to conclude, that a victim to the liberty of the press, of name and character sufficient to inspire a wide alarm, was really desired. Yet as the Attorney General solemnly protested that his prosecution of this pamphlet was spontaneous, and solely dictated to him by the heinous and dangerous nature of its contents, it would be unandid to call his assertion in question. A man of sense, however may be allowed to smile at the notion of real danger to supreme power, supported as well by public opinion as by every active energy of the state, from a private writer, arguing upon principles so little applicable to the practice of the world, as those of

the Gospel. Further, a man of a truly liberal and generous mind will perhaps view, not without indignation, the thunders of the law hurled upon a head distinguished for virtue and learning, without any humane allowance for well intentioned if misguided zeal. The attack commenced, not against the principal, who boldly and honestly came forward to avow himself, but against the agents; and the grand purport of it was sufficiently declared by the superior severity with which a bookseller was treated, who was not the editor, but only a casual vender of the work; but who had long been obnoxious as a distinguished publisher of books of free inquiry. Mr. Wakefield himself next underwent prosecution; and his sentence, upon conviction, was a two year's imprisonment in Dorchester jail. There exists no other measure of punishment in such a case than comparison, and perhaps upon the application of this rule, it will not be found inordinately severe. Two years abode in a prison is, however, a most serious affliction! it is cutting off so much from desirable existence. Mr. Wakefield, notwithstanding his natural fortitude, felt it as such.—Though from his habits of sobriety and seclusion, he had little to resign in respect of the ordinary pleasures of the world; his habits of pedestrian exercise, and his enjoyment of family comfort, were essentially infringed by confinement. He likewise found all his plans of study so deranged, by the want of his library, and the many inconveniences of his situation, that he was less able to employ that resource against tedium and melancholy than might have been expected. One powerful consolation, however, in addition to that of a good conscience, attended him. A set of warm and generous friends employed themselves in raising a contribution which should not only indemnify him from any pecuniary loss consequent upon his prosecution, but should alleviate his cares for the future support of his family. The purpose was effected; and it is to be hoped that Englishmen will ever retain spirit enough to take under

BELFAST MAG. NO. XXIII.

their protection men who have faithfully, though perhaps not with due prudence and consideration, maintained the noble cause of mankind against the frowns of authority.

At length the tedious period elapsed, and the last day of May, in this year, restored him to liberty. He was received by his friends, many of whom had visited him in prison, with the most cordial welcome. He was endeared to them by his sufferings, and his character was generally thought to have received a meliorating tinge of mildness and moderation from the reflexions which had passed through his mind. He formed extensive plans for future literary labours, and he seemed fully capable of enjoying and benefiting that world to which he was returned: when—oh what is man!—a fever, probably occasioned by his anxious exertions to fix himself in a new habitation, cut short all his prospects. From the first attack he persuaded himself that the termination would be fatal, and this conviction materially opposed every attempt of medicine in his favour.—He surveyed death without terror, and prepared for it by tender offices to the survivors.

It is presumed that the character of Mr. Wakefield is sufficiently developed in the preceding sketch of his life. It may however be added, that there was in him an openness, a simplicity, a good faith, an affectionate ardour, a noble elevation of soul, which irresistibly made way to the hearts of all who nearly approached him, and rendered him the object of friendly attachment, to a degree almost unexampled. Let this be placed in balance to all that might appear arrogant or self-sufficient, harsh, or irritable in his literary conduct!—His talents were rare—his morals pure—his views exalted—his courage invincible—his integrity without a spot. When will the place of such a man be supplied?

In addition to the foregoing animated account of a highly valuable and interesting character—a character which will shine conspicuously when the irritating, angry party-politics of the day, to which he fell a sacrifice,

the day, to which he fell a sacrifice, are forgotten, we are induced to add the estimate of his worth, from the pen of his friend George Dyet, in the following appropriate lines, extracted from his poem, dedicated to the memory of Gilbert Wakefield.

"Oh! well do I remember years ago,
That I did wander, though long trained to thought,
Still too, too thoughtless, near thy stream
oh Cam!
There first I saw the friend that now I mourn,
For near thy stream, he too, was wont to croup
The flowers of learning—I remember well,
Beneath his garb, the trappings of the school;
I saw a form erect and slender, like
Thou early form'd to manliness of thought,
And rigid duties; o'er his visage pale,
Fair Science beam'd, and quick around his eye,
A critic archness play'd that would have seem'd
On sternness bent, and querulousness, but that
A gentleness was there, that still appear'd
To check some frowardness, which while it oft
Obtruded its dislikes, yet did not seem
From the pure fountain of his heart to rise.
His gait was steady, firm; for much he seem'd,
As he but walk'd, to gather in his mind,
Thoughts that had stray'd, or to digest with care,
The feastings of his soul in bookish hours.
I knew him not—at least, I did not know
The friend—I only knew of worth and wit,
The zeal of industry, the love of fame,
Of virtue, science, and they call'd them
Wakefield.
This was his spring of life when hopes were gay,
And wishes blooming, not of honours high,

Or in the world or in the church's mart,
But to secure the crown of well earned praise,
Of genius and of learning:—and he did
Obtain the well-earn'd wreath, which well was worn
Through life, and with advancing years still grew.
But in the summer of his life I knew him,
And call'd him friend, for in our hearts did dwell,
Some kindred likings and some kindred scorns;
The tyrant's state, the pontiff's pomp and pride,
The hireling's meanness, the debasing tricks
Of avarice, the sycophantic airs
Of dangles after wealth; ah! subjects fit
Of generous scorn. He had no prison-house;
Worth, freedom, wisdom, still can walk at large,
Tho' bolts and bars, and walls of adamant
May intervene, the sun's æthereal beam,
The lightest breeze, the voice of wife or child,
And friend, and chiefest, conscience, light within,
Cheer the brave man retir'd, while mind upsoars
Thro' worlds, on worlds, beyond the reach of fear.
But I have wander'd, let me then recount
The sum of life, and profit by the amount:
A little learning, and a little weakness,
A little pleasure, and enough of pain,
A little freedom with its taste of slavery,
Passions and reasons struggle where, tho' oft
Reason claims empire, passion governs still;
Believing much, yet doubting not a little;
Till sickness comes, and with it gloom of thought—
When man quite wearied with a world perhaps,
Not moving to his mind, a foolish world,
Seeks inward stillness, and lies quiet down."

ORIGINAL POETRY.

STANZAS,

ON THE DEATH OF A FAVOURITE YOUNG
LADY.

O MY rack'd heart! since Erin green,
From chaos rose at nature's call,

What other son of Care has seen,
So many of his fav'rites fall?
If wrongs and cares had power to gail
This heart so sorely, when consol'd;
How can I live bereft of all
My firmest friends, in clay now cold?

And ANNA's fall'n, the sweetest friend,
That ever heart with anguish fill'd ;
When village nymphs shall her transcend,

Perfection's self the plain shall gild ;
Meek Morn's effulgence, when she smil'd,
Seem'd rising on the raptur'd sight ;
And when she spoke, the wood-notes wild,
Of red-breast sweet, gave less delight.

High-minded Pride, tho' once in heav'n,
In her pure breast, no place could share,
Nor could her temper's tenor ev'n
Be ruffled by perturbing Care,
Forbearance taught her soul to share
Vain Folly's faults, that mov'd her sigh ;
And Pity bade her tend the pray'r
Of Indigence, with tear-wet eye.

Rude Winter, Nature's sweets shall scorn,
And grove and glen of joy bereave ;
But who, so kind on snowy morn,
From treacherous snares shall birds relieve ?

Blest Spring shall bloom, but who will weave

Her bow'r anew ? for low she lies,
Who busied there, seem'd spotless Eve,
Adorning blissful paradise.

Now cold her hand, by Nature grac'd,
That plied its task of tasteful art,
And clos'd her eye that wistly gaz'd
On him she lov'd, Affection's heart ;
Ah ! love-lorn swain, if others smart
So deeply, what transpiercing pain,
Her image hourly must impart,
" Whose like thou ne'er shalt see again ? "

But, suffering friends who mutely blend,
The griefs that language can't relate,
The excellence your minds commend,
Ye should attempt to imitate ;
And ANNA was resigned to fate,
And patient when acutely pain'd,
For Faith and Hope could antedate,
The joys of Heav'n, by goodness gain'd.
Then let 'em heav'n-ward raise each eye,
That on her bier these showers 'have
stream'd.

While angels hail, in yonder sky
Her shade, who here their sister seem'd ;
And now each virtue we esteem'd,
And charm we lov'd made more divine,
She sings the song of the redeem'd,
And basks in bliss while we repine.

Ballycarry.

J.O.

ELEGY.

WHEN humble merit meets the stroke
of fate,
No bard is found to celebrate his fame,
All praise is lavished on the rich and
great,
Whilst in oblivion sinks the poor man's
name.

Not so the tribute of my humble lays,
Shall e'er be spent upon the great
man's tomb,

My muse shall speak an honest neighbour's
praise,
Who lately fell beneath the general
doom.

As truly useful in his sphere of life,
The mean mechanic, as the wealthy
peer,

The loss as deeply felt by friends or wife,
Who o'er his coffin pour the streaming
tear.

The man I mourn could boast no noble
name,

His birth was low, uncultivate his mind,
Yet his heart glowed with virtue's genuine
flame,

His soul was noble, generous, and kind,
In every art mechanical, well skilled,
His ready hand a willing aid would
lend,

The various offices of life he filled,
A worthy father, brother, husband
friend.

Light be the turf upon his honest breast,
And sacred be the sod which shrouds
his clay,
Let no rude hand his humble grave molest,
Till the last trump shall wake to endless
day. L.

ON MISS EDGEWORTH'S BELINDA.

FROM this good tale we learn not to ap-
prove,

Those who dugs, pictures, or goldfinches
love ;

But men, or goldfish misses may a-
dore,

Only two men at once—not any more ;
If one does wrong, may send him to the
devil,

When first they're sure another will be
civil ;

Of their affairs, Reason may rule the
rest,

In love alone what is prefer'd is best ;
Those only too have sense, who went to
school,

And every child of nature is a fool.

NSM—;

SELECT POETRY,

GLENCOE MASSACRE.

LOUD o'er the hill the tempest roars,
Loud o'er the steep the torrent pours,
Adown the snowy dale ;
Yet louder far was heard below,
The lamentable voice of woe,
In Glencoe's gloomy vale !

Load roars the spirit of the storm,
On rending, roaring, whirlwinds borne,
And whistling flies the heath;
But not the ruthless tempest's rave,
Nor loudest fury of the wave,
Nor storms fierce pouring from the north,
Was half so loud, as howling forth,
Approach'd the ghost of death.

Fair rose the sun on Glencoe vale,
And fair he smil'd on Glencoe vale,
And fair he sought the wave;
But e'er he burst the gates of day,
Sweet Glencoe vale wild scatter'd lay,
One wide extended grave!

And murmuring to the nightly beam,
Slow winding mor'd the valley stream,
A silver chrystal flood;
But e'er the star of morning came,
It roaring, tore its once sweet scene,
And rolling, roar'd with rapid force,
Along its wonted lovely course,
A roaring stream of blood!

Night now had drawn her sable veil,
O'er half the world, while Luna pale,
Gaz'd on the earth beneath;
The toil-worn hinds to sleep betake,
A sleep from which they ne'er should
wake,
But in the arms of death!

The unsheath'd poignard waits th' alarm,
And Murder rears her treacherous arm,
To seek the victim's heart;
The crackling beams ascend on high,
Sires, husbands, mother, children die,
All points of kindred carnage lie,
A thousand groans are heard!

The vaulted cliffs rebound the cries,
Of thousands sunk ne'er more to rise,
To death's dark kingdom driven;
Death raises all his voices round,
The hills give back the dismal sound,
The ghosts of night on æther borne,
Encrease the roaring of the storm,
And rend the vault of heaven.

New pillets form'd of blood burst round,
And tremble o'er the trembling ground,
And crimson all the plain;
The mothers' shrieks, the children's cries,
The fathers' groans, the husbands' sighs!
The scream terrific of the owl,
The lightning's flash, the thunder's roll,
Death's horrid chorus join!

Death's done his worst, the deed is done;
Now groans are dying all around,
Now calms the bloody wave;
While from the north the driving sheet,
Pelts heedless on the sons of fate,
The clotted gore's their winding sheet.
The drifted snow their grave!

The morning rose on Glencoe vale,
But night remained in Glencoe vale,
Their sun had ever set:
The ravens wade from shore to shore,
O'er hills of slain, thro' seas of gore,
Or off on bloody pinions bore,
The horrid tale relate.

Ah! who can hear, or who can tell,
The bloody deed, the mournful tale,
Without one feeling tear?
Each homely roof, a grave the while!
Each rural cot, a funeral pile!
Each bed, a bloody bier!

Glasgow,

R.G.

FOREIGN LITERATURE.

Report of the Proceedings of the Class of Fine Arts, of the French Institute, from the 1st of October, 1808, to the 1st of October, 1809; by M. Joachim Le Breton, perpetual Secretary of the Class, &c.

THE questions, that the class has proposed to travellers, respecting the remains termed Cyclopean, have procured much interesting information. *M. Lascyrie*, has sent some account of the ruins of Ausidonia and Saturnia in the district of Sienna, with accurate drawings, by means of which we may form an idea of the dimensions of the stones, and hence of

the height of the walls. The walls of Ausidonia, he observes, are constructed to brave the effect of time. The stones are nearly of the same dimensions as when they issued from the quarry; and they rest on one another without the intervention of any cement. Might not this mode of building, at once durable and economical, be still employed for public edifices? Among other remarks on these two cities, much older than the Roman republic, he thinks there is reason to presume, that the scaffolding was formed by means of ropes.

Mr. Dodwell, an English gentleman, who by an honourable exception, * retained leave to depart from France in his parole, to make a tour in Greece, has been examining the Cyclopean structures in that country for 20 years; and is now employed in comparing them with the remains of the same kind to be found throughout Italy. The result of these interesting inquiries, which M. Dagincourt, correspondent of the Class, has transmitted from Rome, shows that the English traveller has carefully compared the ramparts of the most ancient cities of Italy, with the five species of construction, which the Class has engraved and subjoined to be inquiries it solicited in the year 1805, from learned foreign travellers.

Mr. Dodwell has given a precise account of 26 Grecian cities, corresponding with the Cyclopean monuments in Italy, and has sent a drawing of some walls, which he supposes to have been those of Tyrocinia. But the most important of his drawings are those of Lycosura, the first city, according to Pausanias, on which the sun ever shone. This city he says, he discovered in Arcadia, on the 24th of February, 1805: but he did not know that a Frenchman had been there before him; and that the manuscripts of Fourmont contain a description of this Lycosura, which he visited in 1729. The nature and construction of these ruins appear to confirm the ideas of M. Petit-Radel.

The two Livonian barons *Rernien-kampff*, have communicated some valuable particulars respecting some basso-relieues sculptured on the Cyclopean walls of Ajatri, a city of Italy, reputed of Pelagic origin.

Lastly, *M. Jassand*, French vice-consul at Smyrna, confirms the accuracy of the observations of M. Gropius; and has sent a drawing of the walls of Melos, which exhibit

* These are the words of the French Secretary: but we see nothing very honourable in permitting a man to quit on his parole, a country, in which he and numbers of men, women, and children, while passing through it, or residing in it, under the sanction of peace, were seized, and detained as prisoners.

two different species of building, the ruins of Cyclopean structure occupying the lower part of the walls, and the repairs of these having been executed at a very remote period.

The text of M. Dagincourt's History of the Imitative Arts, from the fourth century, to the commencement of the sixteenth, and the three hundred plates engraved for it, are at Paris, and the learned world will soon be gratified by their publication. M. Dufourny, will edit this work, which is the most important with respect to the History of the Arts, that we can expect. This history naturally divides itself into three grand periods. The first extending from their origin, to their decline under the Emperor Constantine in the fourth century; the second, from their decay, to their revival about the end of the fifteenth, and beginning of the sixteenth century; and the third, from their revival to the present day. On the first and last of these periods much information may be obtained from several works accompanied with engravings, in which the productions of the arts in those times are represented and described with method and perspicuity. The writings of Winkelmann on the ancients, and of Vasari and his continuators on the moderns, leave only the middle period to be filled up. This M. Dagincourt has undertaken to accomplish in three folio volumes.

In a preliminary discourse, M. Dag. gives a sketch of the civil, political, and literary state of the Eastern and Western Roman empires, during the twelve centuries of this period. He then exhibits the monuments of the arts, that have served as the base of his labours, in 300 plates, containing above 1400 subjects of painting, sculpture, and architecture, arranged systematically, and chronologically, and above half of which have never been published. Lastly, in a historical explanation he examines the subjects of these plates, their style, date, and authors, and in what respect these performances or the artists have contributed to the decline or improvement of the art.

The Class observes with pleasure, the annual increase of works, attract-

tive for their splendour, as well as those that are simply instructive.—Among the magnificent publications, are the Description of the Napoleon Museum, by Messrs. *Laurent*, and *Robillard-Peronville*: that of the Principal Monuments of Architecture in France, by *M. Baltard*: that of Constantinople, from the drawings of *M. Milling*: the Liliaceous Plants, by *M. Redouté*: the Gallery of the Napoleon Museum, by *M. Filhol*, and *M. Lavalée*; and the first number of Plans of Country Seats at Rome and its Vicinity, by Messrs. *Percier* and *Fontaine*. The first and most important of these works, has lately lost its two estimable editors, but the engravings are all nearly finished, and only have to be arranged, and the text will be continued by Messrs. *Visconti* and *Emeric-David*.

The new collection of antique vases, vulgarly called Etruscan, published by *Dubois Maisonneuve*, from drawings by *Mr. A. Clener*, with explanations by *M. Millin*, though not equally splendid, is worthy an enlightened nation. If it have been preceded by three grand descriptions of Etruscan vases in other countries, it excels them in fidelity and good taste. The description of the *Hindoos*, by *M. Sotoyus*, with plates from original drawings, proceeds with much success. *M. Wilmin*, who has devoted himself to the study of French antiquities, copies these with fidelity, and deserves more encouragement than he has received. *M. Alex. Lenoir* has published the first volume of a Collection of unpublished portraits of illustrious men and women of France in various reigns, which is equally interesting with his other works.

Among the works ornamented with engravings, that have one useful merit, that of being classical, is the Collection of tracings from the Frescoes of *Raphael*, taken in 1751, by the late *M. Belle*, then a pensioner in the school at Rome. That artist obtained the extraordinary favour, which has never since been granted, of tracing some of the finest productions of *Raphael* on transparent paper; and in this manner he copied a number of heads from the school of Athens,

Heliodorus, *Dispute on the Holy Sacrament*, *Battle of Constantine*, &c. The studies of Landscapes from Nature, by *M. Coste*, engraved and published by *M. Marchand*, have a similar merit, that of utility to the student.

M. Landon is publishing a faithful copy and translation of *Stuart and Revett's Antiquities of Athens*: but it is impossible to speak of the Antiquities of Greece without advertising to the Picturesque Tour of *M. de Choiseul-Gouffier*, the 2nd volume of which, just published, after an interval of twenty years, is in every respect, perhaps, even superior to the first.

The freemasons of the five united lodges of the English order at *Ham-burgh*, have devoted part of their building to the purpose of an hospital. It is intended chiefly for servants, &c. two hundred and twenty-one patients were received into it the first year. The expenditure was 7800 marks (£585.)

None of the German states have so many establishments for education as *Westphalia*. Though that of *Magdeburg* was destroyed by *Tilly*, the school of *Klosterbergen*, founded by *Otton* the great, subsists to the present day: and notwithstanding the changes introduced into the course of studies of the universities by the new constitution, there are still, at those of *Goettingen*, *Halle*, *Helmstedt*, *Marpurg*, and *Rinteln*, 1207 students.

Fifty-two gymnasiums, among which are to be distinguished that of *Iblefeld* under the direction of *M. Heyne*, and those of *Halle*, under *M. Niemeyer*, reckon 6851 scholars; and the lower schools, amounting to 3600, impart instruction to 253,588 children. Each of the two great cities of *Brunsvic* and *Magdeburg*, has thirty-five public schools of different kinds, without reckoning the private schools. Among the latter, that of *M. Hunderiker*, who has adopted *Pestalozzi's* method, deserves particularly to be mentioned. In the public schools, the children of the poor may gain their living by some employment, while they are receiving their lessons. In these two cities alone, 900 scholars are instruct-

ed in the sciences. The richer a country is, the greater the number of its schools: along the course of the Elbe, the proportion is one master to 49 children, on the banks of the Oder, one to 50, in the Harz, one to 36, and on the Weser, one to 79.

The Saxon, Prussian, and Napoleonic Laws of Exchange, have lately been published at Leipsic in one vol. 4to.

The 6th vol. of Secret Letters concerning the Court of Prussia, since the death of Frederic I. has appeared. It is likewise published under the title of Memoirs illustrative of the History of the War in Prussia, Silesia, and Poland, in the years 1806, and 1807, vol. 5, with three plans belonging to the 3d vol.

Dr. Augustus Zeune, director of the first public institution for the tuition of the blind, established in Germany, has published a work entitled, *Belisarius, or the Tuition of the Blind*, in which he has not only given his own ideas on the subject, but has collected every thing worthy of notice, that has been written by others. It is accompanied with plates, and a map to illustrate the globe, constructed by him for the instruction of the blind.

The Philanthropic Society of Zurich is forming an establishment for the tuition of such blind persons, as are found to be capable of receiving a certain degree of education. M. Funk of Nidan, in the canton of Berne, himself blind, will be of great use in the instruction of his fellows.

Of J. V. Sickler's description of Schæfer's washing machine, and method of using, we know nothing but the title.

Last summer a novel experiment was tried at the village of Philipsthal in east Russia; which was attended with complete success. The object was, to split a rock by means of lightning. For this purpose an iron rod, similar to a conductor, was fixed in the rock; and the first thunder storm that occurred, the lightning was conducted down the rod, and split the rock into several pieces, without displacing it.

Messrs. Francis and John Riepenhau-

sen are publishing at Rome a history of the art of painting, consisting of outlines of the best pictures of the old masters, from Cimabue to the pupils of Raphael. An account of each of the painters and his works will accompany them.

M. Kierstein, of Strasburg, has executed many curious works, that are much admired, in what the reporter calls, not very properly, demibasso relievo. They consist of landscapes, hunting pieces, and other subjects, sculptured on silver medallions of a size suitable for snuffboxes. Some parts of the work are completely detached from the ground, but no solder is used, the whole being cut from one solid piece.

On the 29th of June was opened at Ghent, a public exhibition of flowers, plants, trees, and shrubs, by the members of the agricultural and botanical society of that city. Many amateurs, among whom were the chief magistrates of the city, sent their contributions. To M. du Coulombier were adjudged the prize medal, for a very fine *plumeria rubra* in flower, and the first accessit, for a *metrosideros floribunda* from Notasia. M. Pyn obtained the second accessit for the *dais cotinifolia*, a very fine tree from the Cape of Good Hope.

A pyramid had been erected on the plain of Jury to the memory of Henry IV. in the fury of the French revolution, this was destroyed. When Bonaparte was first consul, on his way through the department of the Eure, he staid a long time to examine this celebrated field of battle, and ordered the pyramid to be restored, with an additional inscription, importing, that the disasters experienced by France at that period arose from the appeal made to the Spanish and English nations; and that every family, every party, which could call in a foreign power to its aid, would deserve the curses of the French people to remotest posterity.* The society of agriculture, arts, and

* This is a truth equally applicable to all nations, and his own conduct has sufficiently exemplified the truth of his doctrine.

sciences, of the department, has proposed this as the subject of a prize poem.

The royal academy of sciences at Munich is publishing a collection of the Roman antiquities in Bavaria, in 4to. with plates. The first number contains an examination of the present state of the science of antiquities in Bavaria, a view of the means of improving it, and a sketch of the advantages that may arise from antiquarian researches. The second gives an account of the researches made on the Roman way from Jovavi to Augsburg, and of the great number of antiquities lately found there, as vases, milestones, inscriptions, &c. These are represented on plates, and the inscriptions are on a black ground, which has a very good effect.

The History of the Bavarian Anabaptists in the sixteenth century, by *V. A. Winter*, 8vo. Munich 1809, merits a distinguished rank among the works on the ecclesiastical history of Germany. The political history of Bavaria is closely connected with its ecclesiastical history, which has led the author to trace the troubles occasioned by the reformation; and he has had recourse to various unpublished documents.

The memoirs of Colonel *Von Mussenback*, respecting his connections with the state of Prussia, &c. particularly with the duke of Brunswick, 1 vol. large 8vo. with plans and a map, Amsterdam 1809, throws much light on the operations of the duke, of whom the author was the inseparable companion in arms.

The new Historical, Statistical, Political and Commercial View of Livonia and Esthonia, under Catharine I. and Alexander I. by *J. Christopher Petri*, large 8vo. with plates, Leipsic, is equally accurate and complete.

M. D. J. Burgers, an Austrian farmer, has made many observations on Indian corn, zea mays, that had escaped both Parmentier and Mirabelle. He has even succeeded in malting and making beer of it. His complete account of the natural history, cultivation, and use of maize, or Indian corn, was published last year at Vienna, in 1 vol. large 8vo. with four plates.

The Farnesian collection having been plundered during the commotions at Rome. *M. Benkowitz*, of Silesia, being on his travels through Italy, purchased a considerable number of medals belonging to it, expecting to make a considerable profit by them. Not acquainted with their real value however, he asked such an exorbitant price for them, that he could not find a purchaser; and at his death they were sold by auction. Of a part of these, amounting to about 1250. *Abbe Sestini* was employed to make a catalogue; and in consequence he has published in Italian a description of the Greek and Roman medals of the late *M. Benkowitz*, in 4to. at Berlin. Seventeen Greek medals, that appeared most deserving of notice, are engraved. Few in this catalogue have not been noticed by other writers, but *M. Sestini* occasionally corrects mistakes of *Vaillant* and others. A medal of *Antoninus Pius* struck at *Neoclaudiopolis* in *Paphlagonia*, with the date 191, is altogether new. On one of *Sidon*, the emperor *Heliogabalus* appears in the dress of a priest of *Astarte*. *Zorga* mistook this for a *Triptolemus*. Among the Roman medals is a very valuable one of *Gernanicus*, with the same inscription as another struck in honour of *Augustus*: *consensu senat. et eg. ordin. p. g. r.* The collection was purchased by *M. Koehler* of Berlin.

M. J. Jef. Lipsius, having been appointed second inspector of the gallery of antiquities, and cabinet of medals of the king of Saxony, disposed of his own valuable collection in November last, previous to which he published a catalogue of it, under the title of *Europa im Kleinen*, &c. "Europe in little or a catalogue of a collection of medals, for the most part small, but remarkable, of the middle and subsequent ages, from all parts of Europe, except Turkey. The arrangement is geographical: it is an excellent guide in the formation of a cabinet of modern medals.

A curious work has lately appeared at Gotha, in Saxony, entitled *wood cuts of ancient German masters*,

printed from the originals, collected by *Jon Albert von Derschau*; with a dissertation (in French and German) on the nature and history of engraving on wood, by *R. Z. Becker*. It appears that about thirty years ago, *M. von Derschau* accidentally met with some hundredis of old engravings on wood, formerly belonging to *Willibald Birkheimer*, the intimate friend of *Albert Durer*, in a chest in a lumber room of a house at *Nuremberg*. Having made this acquisition, he was tempted to endeavour to enlarge it, and procured many pieces from the heirs of *J. S. Beham*, and of the celebrated *J. J. von Sandrart*. Many pieces of the first rank too were procured for him in Italy by a judicious traveller; and to these he added the valuable collection of *M. Silberrad*. The size of the work is large folio, and the first number contains ninety wooden cuts. Among these are many very antient, and very curious. One 9 inches, by $13\frac{1}{2}$, representing a cat teaching her kitten to play with mice, with the old German proverb, "take care of the cat that licks before and scratches behind," is apparently one of the first attempts at

engraving on wood, and much older than the *St. Christopher* of 1423, a piece of a letter of indulgence, containing fourteen lines of old German writing, is probably much older than the *Donatus* of *Guttemberg*. A virgin *Mary*, with *St. Catharine* and three other saints, very coarsely executed, and rabbited in the middle, has underneath, in Gothic characters, *Jorg Glockendon*. He is now therefore to be considered as the oldest engraver on wood whose name is known, and not *John Schnitzer* of *Araheim*, the engraver of the maps for the edition of *Ptolemy*, in 1481, who has hitherto enjoyed this honour. It has been supposed, that there were no cuts of *Albert Durer* in existence, but what were worn out. This however does not appear to be the case, as there are several in this volume, some of which were not known. It likewise contains many masterpieces of the art, some by unknown hands. The price of this vol. (we believe at *Paris* or *Strasbourg*) is 60 livres (£210). If it meet with sufficient encouragement, it will be followed by others.

DISCOVERIES AND IMPROVEMENTS IN ARTS, MANUFACTURES, &c.

Patent of Mr. John Marshall of Norwich, Chester, and of Mr. John Naylor of Hartford, in said county, for a new and improved method of manufacturing Salt.

Dated Feb. 1806.

THIS new method of manufacturing salt, consists in varying, at short and successive intervals, the degrees of heat which the brine receives from the fire; and it is done by adding to the common brine-pan or boiler, a condenser or cooler, having an open communication with the pan, by which the heated brine may flow freely from the pan into, and circulate about the cooler, and from thence back again; which it will do by means of the motion and impulse communicated by the fire; and by the consequent expansion of the brine,

the most heated parts following upon the top, and so going on towards the extreme part of the cooler, and afterwards, when become more cool and dense, returning in an under, and backward current towards the fire, which progress forward and backward, is continued and renewed, and by its means the salt is formed into crystals chiefly in the cooler, and not in the heated pan, in which the salt is wholly formed by the method now in use. For the sake of dispatch two or more coolers might be applied to one pan, in order that the brine may be continued to be worked in one or more of such coolers, while the salt is removing from the others. The cooler might be another pan not heated, but for saving of expense in the construction, the Patentees recom-

mend clay lined with bricks, flags, and other cheap and convenient materials for forming a shallow pond or reservoir, communicating with the brine pan, and acting as such cooler. A pan of considerable size lengthways, having the heat applied only to part of it, would operate (more or less according to its length and dimensions) to the forming of salt in this manner; because in that case the parts of the pan not heated, would be in effect condensers or coolers to its heated parts; but the extension of the pans would operate against the saving of expense. By the addition of the coolers a much greater quantity of salt will be made in the same space of time, than can be made in the same pans or boilers without the coolers or condensers.

Patent of Mr. Charles Le Caan, of Llanelly, Carmarthenshire, for an apparatus to be added to axles and wheels, so as to impede or check their action. Dated Feb. 1810.

Mr. Le Caan's new check for carriages, consists of a bolt attached to the axle, in the direction of its length, near the nave, in such a manner, that by shooting it forward, its head runs into the back of the nave, which has a ring of cast metal, attached to it, with certain parts projecting from it, against which the bolt is driven, when it is desired to lock the wheel of the carriage.

The bolt is moved by a lever, with or without the assistance of springs; which lever may be connected with the carriage by chains or cords, by pulling which the bolt is locked or unlocked as required.

A bolt and lever may be attached next each wheel of the carriage if thought necessary, but it is probable that one for each of the hind wheels will be sufficient.

Observations.—An obvious objection occurs to this mode of checking carriages; by it the strain will be thrown entirely on the nave, which is the weakest part of the wheel, and the least able to sustain it; and the longer the spokes are the greater will be this strain, as their length will operate as a lever to multiply the

impulses of the sole, against the road, when dragged along it, in the force of their operation on the nave. The common sort of naves are so much cut and weakened by the mortises for receiving the spokes, that they require to be spared as much as possible: instead of having any additional strains applied to them: and for this reason (as well as for their greater durability in other respects, and not being liable to split or open by the weather) cast iron naves cannot be too much recommended; the use of which, we are happy to see, is increasing greatly in Ireland, particularly about Dublin: those of this kind commonly used, are of a sufficiently light and strong construction, and only require to have moveable boxes added to them (which may be easily contrived) to render them entirely convenient, and durable in a perfect state.

Patent of Mrs. Phillis Bown Thomson, of Birmingham, for an improved mode of making Umbrellas and Parasols. Dated April, 1809.

The invention for which this patent is taken, is a case for an umbrella or parasol, composed of several sliding joints, on the same construction as those of a telescope, which are forced up above the umbrella, over the part which contains the ferule, when the umbrella is required to be raised; and which are drawn down again when the umbrella is shut.

Several substances are mentioned of which these cases may be made, most of which are sufficiently obvious not to need repetition, but it is probable horn or japanned paper would be most preferred, as metal would be found inconvenient on account of its weight and uncommon appearance.

The whole when the case is drawn down, will resemble a walking stick. The part of the handle which is covered by the umbrella when closed, is made of a small tube, to take up less room, and is connected with the part that holds the ferule, by a thick wire, that passes through both. The part of the handle, at the end held

in the hand, is made of the same thickness as the largest joint of the case, which shuts close on it, when drawn over the umbrella.

The number of joints of the case must depend on the length of the part that projects beyond the umbrella, and holds the ferule; but in general, three or four will be sufficient.

Twelve figures of the umbrella in various states is given in the specification of the patent, which will prevent any mistake from arising in its construction to those who wish to copy it when the patent is expired.

Observations.....It will be difficult to make umbrellas of this kind sufficiently strong and durable without rendering them clumsy. If the cases are made to fit tight, they will soon wear out the covering of the umbrella; if the bones, runners, and joints are made small, so as to take up little room, they will soon break; and if the cases are made easy, and the other parts of the umbrella strong, it can scarcely avoid appearing too massive when shut up; perhaps the nice medium may be found, after many trials, which will best comprise the advantages without the inconveniences of the invention. As this, however, is a lady's patent, we must not criticise it too much, but will rather conclude with wishing it may be sufficiently profitable to her, to induce others of her sex to turn their attention to the useful arts, for which we are convinced, they are in no wise deficient in the abilities and talents requisite.

Method of preventing the Accidents which frequently happen, from the Linch Pins of Carriages breaking and coming out; by Mr. J. Varty, Coach-maker, Liverpool

Trans. Soc. Arts.

In Mr. Varty's method of securing linch pins, a small groove is cut in front, close to the bottom of the aperture, through which the linch pin passes, in which a small piece of iron turns on a pivot in such a manner, that when the linch pin is removed it may be pushed back into the aperture, which the latter has just quitted, so that the wheel may

be taken off or put on; but when left to itself it hangs down in front of the wheel, so as to prevent its slipping off in case the linch pin should drop out or break, as it cannot be forced forward without breaking the pivot: the linch pin is fastened on in the usual manner.

This contrivance has been tried in a stage-coach, which has run from Liverpool to Litchfield, a distance of 84 miles, six days in every week, for six months; during which time several instances have occurred, in which the linch pins have broke or come out, but owing to their places being supplied by the means above described, no accident has happened. It is well known that coaches are so frequently upset, more from the linch pins breaking than from any other cause, which renders this invention of the more importance.

Several certificates were sent to the Society of Arts, both from stage-drivers, and others, of the many accidents which happen from linch pins breaking, and of the efficacy of Mr. Varty's contrivance; for which the Society voted him their silver medal.

Account of a Red Earth found in Jamaica, which has all the properties of Italian Puzzolana.

Trans. Soc. Arts, v.5, p. 215.

Mr. Brown of Jamaica, who sent a quantity of the red earth to the Society for the Encouragement of Arts, &c. thus describes his method of using it, and its properties.

"To one measure of the red earth, add two of well slacked lime, and one of sand; let them be well mixed and wrought like common mortar, with fair water, and made up in a heap: in about eight hours it will begin to acquire a hardness, and the heap must then be cut down and well mixed over again, and be smartly worked and wet morning and evening, for a whole week, before it is fit for use. After it is laid on, it must be strictly attended, while it dries and hardens, to close any crack that may then appear in it, for about forty eight hours, after which time it is generally out of danger.

But if any cracks should appear, after it is quite dry (when used for the

covering of a building, lining of a cistern, &c.) a labourer, with a little sand, or brick dust, and a little common whitewash thrown over the crack, and smartly rubbed in with a brickbat, or sandy stone, will soon make the crack disappear, and the work will be as good as ever.

Cisterns, reservoirs, canals, and all manner of conveniences to collect rain water, and retain it, may be made and completely finished with this composition at a small expense.

A mortar may be made (far exceeding any other) of this composition, wherewith to lay the foundation, and raise the superstructure of any dam, bridge, or guttering; and in short, any kind of building where water is concerned, because this mortar will harden, and soon become like a stone, totally immersed in water.

Of this composition may be made the best coverings for all manner of buildings; of which my own house is a proof, that has been covered with this composition (though not at that time brought to its present perfection) twenty years ago, and is not now in the least worse than at first.

In regard to matters of pleasure, terrace walks, canals, flowerpots, urns, obelisks, statues, and even colossal statues, and other ornaments for gardens, may be made of this composition, as it resists rain, and every sort of moisture, and nothing but violence will make the least impression upon it; so that the five orders of architecture, with their various ornaments may be most elegantly expressed by it, on the outside or inside of buildings, in the plasterer's way, and last for ages if no violence is used to them.

In covering a building I would chuse to lay it six inches thick, upon a flat strong framed well lathed roof, as it will shrink in drying. It is the best and cheapest covering I know of, as I have experienced ever since 1747."

Mr. Robert Mylne, the well known architect (to whom the above extract from Mr. Brown's letter was sent by Mr. Moore, secretary to the Society for the Encouragement of Arts, &c. in 1774)

sent a letter to Mr. Moore in 1784, stating that he had tried the red Jamaica earth, and that "it turns out to be a very good substitute for Dutch tarras, or Italian puzzolana for works immersed in water. Mr. Mylne sent another letter in 1786, to Mr. Moore, on the same subject, which contains the following particulars.

Sir...I have it now in my power to write to you decidedly on the red earth, of which I received a specimen.

I have put it to very severe trials, and have found it to answer extremely well, as a substitute for Dutch terras, or Puzzolana earth from Italy. They are all three volcanic substances, and have the same peculiar properties. Besides what I received from you, I obtained by means of a friend, a quantity from Jamaica: which, on comparative trials, proved the same as that you sent. It is found in vast quantities on the estate of Mr. Brown, in the parish of St. Elizabeth, in Jamaica. There are many acres of it, for it lies on the surface of the ground; in which it differs from the Italian Puzzolana, which lies in strata under ground like coal. Dutch tarras is a *Tufa* stone, found on the rocky banks of the Rhine, and reduced to powder by mills in Holland.

Mr. Brown who sent the Jamaica terras to the society, is since dead, and the estate on which it is found, is called Dettingen, and is now the property of his son a very intelligent gentleman."

Observations.... This paper is inserted on account of its so strongly corroborating the remarks on the same subject, made on M. Gratian L'epères' report on natural and artificial puzzolana, inserted in vol. 3d, page 203, and those in the paper relative to flat roofs, in the 4th vol. page 133, to which we beg leave to refer, both for the general advantages of adopting this mode of forming roofs, and for those peculiar to this part of Ireland.

Though this paper has been published some time, its contents are so little known to the public; that

it still has most of the advantages of novelty to recommend it, and besides that of conveying information on a matter which with justice, is very interesting to many, who are either professors, or amateurs of architecture; and which ought to be so to most others also, as the greatest part of mankind are more or less concerned in the proper construction, and extended preservation of houses, and of those other works likewise, to which cements impervious to water can be applied.

Had the ingenious gentleman who wrote this paper, been now alive, it would have given him much pleasure, to see the hint, which he has thrown out, relative to the application of these cements, to the ornamental parts of architecture, realized; several specimens of this kind are now to be seen in London, which endure the weather extremely well; of which the new Theatre at Covent Garden is the most remarkable, for the ingenuity exercised in the application of the cement to the high projections of the Doric cornice, as well as for its great beauty and extent.

The directions given in this paper, for the great thickness of the coat of puzzolana on the roof, appear more necessary for the hot climate where it was used, than for this.—Thick roofs keep a house cool in Summer, and warm in cold weather; but in our temperate climate, a thinner roof will do sufficiently well, and be cheaper, both from not requiring so much cement, and from timber of less scantling being necessary for its support, on account of its greater lightness.

But where strength and durability are preferred to lightness of timbering, it might be the cheapest method to cover the rafters with a layer of bricks cemented together with the puzzolana, with one or two coats of it, of about an inch thick, layed over all.

In addition to the advantage of flat roofs, mentioned in page 135, vol. 3, for which roofs puzzolana is peculiarly adapted, it should be noticed that they would afford great facility for escape in case of accidents by

fire, if the neighbouring houses were also furnished with them, as in this case the passage from the top of one house to another would be attended with little difficulty or danger. The same circumstance would also much assist efforts for extinguishing fires, as well as escaping from them; for on the neighbouring flat roofs, fire engines might be worked with as much ease as on the ground, and in many cases with much more efficacy.

Flat roofs likewise would afford the convenience of permitting chimneys to be swept, with very little trouble in the simplest manner, without having recourse to the inhuman, and in many instances fatal practice of sending unfortunate children up the flues; a practice, with which we can scarcely find any parallel in point of unnecessary cruelty to tender and helpless years, among the most savage nations; and to which nothing but tyrant custom could at all reconcile us, so as to contemplate it with the usual indifference.

On the art of Printing with Stone, and on the progress which this art has made in Germany. by M. Marcel de Serres. *Annales de Chémie,*

The art of printing with stone was originally discovered in Germany, and has since spread into England, Italy, and lately into France. Alois Senefelter, a native of Prague in Bohemia, is the inventor of this new method of printing, which is known in Germany by the name of *chemische druckery*, i. e. chemical printing. It is now nine years since he obtained from the then elector of Bavaria, an exclusive privilege to exercise it for 13 years, but Senefelter soon after ceded this privilege to his brothers; some time afterwards he ceded this privilege to M. Andre of Offenbach, who has since carried on the art in England. In 1802 he went to Vienna to solicit a fresh privilege, which he obtained in 1803, from the emperor of Austria for the term of 30 years. He disposed of this privilege to Messrs. Steiner and Kransnitski, and returned to Bavaria, where, having arrived at Munich, he opened in partnership with some other persons,

a stone-printing house. Messrs. Steiner and Krasnitski, have kept up the practice of this art at Vienna, being supported in their design by Starzl de Luchsenstein, a counsellor of the regency, who warmly interests himself in whatever is useful.

The stone-printing house established at Munich is that where the art has been brought to the greatest perfection; and that at Stutgard appears to be much less important. M. Chauvron is the first who obtained in France a brevet of invention to print, or engrave with stone, and M. Guyot Desmarest has only engaged in it since his time.

The processes, which are used in printing with stone, are very simple; at Vienna they use three different methods of printing with stone; but they most commonly employ that, which is called the method in relief; which is used chiefly for printing music.

The second method, that is employed, is the hollow method, and this is preferred for engravings.

The third is the flat method, or that which is neither hollow nor in relief: this is very useful for the imitation of drawings, and particularly of those drawings, which are to be made like those that have been drawn with chalk.

To print, or engrave according to this process, a slab of indurated marle, or any other calcareous stone is used, provided the stone can be easily cut, and takes a good polish. These stones may thus be compared to the copper plates, or wooden blocks, for which they are indeed substituted. The size of the stone, as may be easily judged, should be in proportion to that of the work, which it is meant to be engraved on them. It ought to be from two inches to two inches and an half thick; it is proper to observe however that this thickness is not absolutely necessary, but it is very convenient to make use of a stone of this thickness, in order that it may last longer. A good polish ought to be given to the stone, and this polish ought to be in some degree granular, or rough; it also appears that a small grain, although the stone is in

some degree porous, is a desirable advantage. At Vienna slabs of indurated marle brought from Bavaria are used; this marle is quarried at Sollenhoffen, near Sapeenheim. It is very fortunate that as the interesting art of printing with stone has been established in France, stones that possess all the necessary qualities have been found near Paris.

When the stone is dried, and well polished, the next operation is to draw the design, notes, or letters that are intended to be printed upon it with a pencil. The design traced in this manner is not sufficiently apparent; and in order to render it more so, a particular kind of ink is retraced over the mark of the pencil. This ink is considered at Vienna as a great secret; it appears to be formed of a solution of gum lac in potash, which is afterwards coloured with lamp black produced from burning wax. When the letters or notes are marked with the ink just now described, the ink is left to dry, most commonly for about the space of two hours; but nothing positive can be said on this point, as the time required to dry the ink depends so much upon the temperature and humidity of the air; but the most ignorant workman will be able to determine when the ink is dry. It must be again observed that the ink whose composition has been just described, is coloured with lamp-black made from burning wax; as this black has been found most convenient for this kind of printing.

When the letters or musical notes impregnated with this black are dry, nitric acid is passed over them more or less diluted, according to the relief or hollow which is desired to be formed on the stone; and the acid attacking all parts of the stone but those which have been impregnated with the resinous ink, only the notes or drawing remain untouched.

The slab of marle is then washed with water to render it clean; and a printer's ball is charged with ink of the same kind used in common printing. It is only the letters or notes that take the ink from the printer's ball so that they become properly colour.

ed. After this a sheet of paper being put in a frame, the frame is lowered, and a brass cylinder is passed over the paper, or a copperplate-press is used. At each proof it is necessary, as in all other kinds of printing to wash the plate with water.

When the number of copies, intended to be printed are finished, and no farther use is designed to be made of the work, the stone is polished again, and thus the same slab will serve for thirty or forty different works. The method called the hollow method, in German *kreide manier*, does not differ greatly from the method in relief, except that the nitric acid is made to act stronger upon the stone, so that the letters are more relieved, and the stone itself much hollower. This method is principally used by the engravers; and it has this advantage over the other methods, that it remedies that equality of tone, which printing from stone produces in the works. It is easy to be conceived that the highest parts will take up less of the colour, and the hollow parts more, so that the print thus managed has a less monotonous effect than is usual, to which defect this method of engraving has always been liable. Besides this the hollow method requires much stronger rollers, and particularly that they should be heavier. As therefore more expense is necessary in this method, it has been totally left off; nevertheless it ought to be preferred for those engravings, which require some effect and much neatness. Nitric acid almost pure, is employed in this method, and indeed pure nitric acid was always employed when printing from stone was first used; its dearness however led to its being weakened with water, and now it is diluted, according to the effect desired to be obtained.

In the method which is called in relief, nitric acid is used diluted with one half of water. This method is called in German *erhaben*, and is principally employed to print music: as scarcely any thing but music is engraved at Vienna, it is almost the only method they use. To print in this manner, the pressing rollers that

are used are not so heavy as those employed in the hollow method.

The third method called the flat manner, and in German *erflach*, is particularly advantageous for engravings imitative of chalk drawings. Less nitric acid is used in this method, but great care must be taken that the stone which is prepared for this purpose is quite flat. Although the letters rise very little, they do nevertheless stand up above the surface; but it is less sensible than in the other methods, and can scarcely be discovered but by the touch.

The kinds of work that are engraved in stone are the following.

1. Imitations of wood cuts,
2. Imitations of the dot manner,
3. Drawings,
4. Musical works,
5. All kinds of writing,
6. Geographical maps,
7. Engravings in mezzotinto.

The advantages which result from the manner of printing or engraving, that has been described above, are that this printing has a peculiar character, which cannot be imitated by the other methods of printing, and that it can easily imitate any of the former. But its greatest advantage is the quickness with which it may be performed in proportion to the other kinds of printing.

A design which an artist could not finish upon copper in the space of five or six days, may be engraved upon stone in one or two days. While the copper-plate printer draws off six or seven hundred impressions, the printer from stone can take off in the same space of time 2000 impressions. An engraved copperplate will seldom yield 1000 impressions; but the stone slab will yield several thousand, and the last will be altogether as good as the first. It has been tried in the stone-printing office at Vienna to take off 30,000 impressions of the same design; and even then the last impression was nearly as handsome as the first. They have even carried the number of copies to a greater extent in printing bank notes.

The most industrious and most skilful engraver of music can hardly engrave four pages of music on pewter in a day, while the engraver on stone may en-

grave twice as many in the same time. Every kind of work which artists engrave upon copper or pewter, and which the printer executes with moveable types may also be performed by using stone.

It would take up too much time to detail all the expenses of this method of printing; but experience shows that printing upon stone may be performed with a saving of one third of the expense, in the comparison of the printing with copper or pewter.

After having thus shown the advantages resulting from this method of printing on stone, it is but right to point out its disadvantages. The principal of these disadvantages is the difficulty that occurs, when it is attempted, to give either to the characters of the impression, or to the strokes of the engraving, that diversity of tone, which renders these two kinds of works valuable in the eyes of those, who look for beauty in every thing. Thus for example, the most beautiful engravings that printing on stone has hitherto produced, are certainly those that have been executed at Munich, after the famous drawings, which Albert Dürer, by a very common caprice among painters, had traced on a book of prayers.* These engravings are performed with much spirit: the strokes are frequently very fine, but it is too equal, so that the engraving is rather grey and uniform. It is principally by comparing these engravings with those of the same subject which other masters have executed in etching with aquafortis, that the difference will be most perfectly perceived. In the latter it is soon observed that the engraving tool has been directed so as to give the necessary force to the line; thus rendering it sometimes strong, and sometimes fine, as it would be in a drawing, and that still there is no stiffness in it. But in the engravings upon stone that have been hitherto

published, neither this freedom can be perceived, nor the strength which adds so much to the relief of the engravings performed with aquafortis.

The same inconvenience is also to be found in the music printed in this manner, and the equal tint that is spread over it also renders the music less legible. It must not, however, be hastily concluded from this, that the new art is not important, but only that some method of avoiding the inconveniences, which appear to arise alone from the processes now used, should be sought after. If these methods should be discovered, which may be expected from a more extended experience in the art, particularly in the mode of applying the acid, and of drawing upon the stone, which are in fact the two most essential points to bring to perfection, this method of printing will unite an economy of time, to that of expense. The great number of impressions that can be obtained by this method, is not one of its least advantages. And, lastly, it is certain, that the discovery of printing from stone, is an important discovery for the arts, because it is a new one, and offers several real advantages.

It now only remains to mention the differences that appear to exist in the printing houses on this plan, which are established in different cities. It seems that at Milau they pour upon the stone a little nitric acid diluted with water as at Vienna; but it is asserted, that they cannot take off more than 500 impressions; a circumstance which probably depends on the nature of the stone, that they use there, and which is brought from Verona.

It seems that Chauvron, the first who established a printing house of this kind at Paris, having first traced the lines upon the stone with resinous ink, contents himself with moistening the stone with water. He then wipes off the water lightly, which soon leaves the resinous lines, and leaves them dry. On applying after this printer's ink by means of the common balls, the ink does not adhere to those parts of the stone, which remain impregnated with moisture, and of course

* Albrecht Dürer, *Christliche mythologische handzeichnungen*, Strunxer, München 1808. Different coloured inks, have also been used in printing the designs; black and red ink, have been employed, as also violet and green ink.

it is only the resinous lines, which leave any impression. Chauvron is said to have printed a considerable quantity of music in this manner.

It ought to be observed, that in those printing-houses, where they do not make use of nitric acid, they always produce a very inferior kind of work, and can only take off a very small number of impressions. It therefore appears that the use of nitric acid cannot be too strongly recommended; and after what has been already said, the reason is evident.

Account of the Spartum or Broom Plant, and of various uses which are made of it, from Beckman's history of Inventions, vol. 2, p. 287.

Accounts having been given in vol. 3, p. 457, and in this volume, p. 184, of methods of preparing flax from the broom plant, the following extract from Beckman is presented to our readers on account of the valuable information which it contains on the subject, as forming a good sequel to what has already appeared.

"The antients, and particularly the Greeks, understood by *spartum* a shrub, the slender branches of which were woven into baskets of various kinds, and which produced young shoots that could be prepared and manufactured in the same manner as hemp; and this plant, as has been remarked by the old botanists, is the *spartum junceum*, or Spanish broom, which grows wild on dry land, that produces nothing else in the Levant, and in the southern parts of Europe. This broom is that described and recommended in *Comment instituti Bonnoniensis*, v. i. p. 349, and v. i. p. 118. The French translator of the papers here alluded to is much mistaken, when he thinks in *Journal economique*, 1785 *Novembre*, that the author speaks of the common broom (*spartum scoparium*) that grows on our moors. Mr. Broussonet, in *memoires d'agriculture, par la societe de Paris* 1785, *trimestre d'automne* p. 127, has also recommended the cultivation of *spart. junceum*, under the name of *genet d'Espagne*, and enumerated the many uses to which it may be applied. The people in lower Langue-

doc, especially in the neighbourhood of Lodeve, make of it table cloths, shirts and other articles of dress. The offal or rind serves as firing. This *spartum* of the Greeks or *spartum junceum* of the botanists, is the species called by Pliny, book 39, chap. 9, *genista*, and which he improperly considers as the Spanish and African *spartum*. The latter is certainly the *stipa tenacissima*, which grows in Spain and Africa, called there at present *sparto* or *esparto*, and which is still prepared and employed, as described by Pliny, b. 19, c. 2. Baskets, mattresses, ship-cables, and other strong ropes were made of it; and when this rush was prepared like hemp, it was used for various fine works. Even at present the Spaniards make of it a kind of shoes called *alpergates*, with which they carry on a great trade to the Indies, where they are very useful on the hot, rocky and sandy soil. The best account of this rush may be found in *Clusii histor. plantar. rar.* p. 220: in *Lofling's Reisebeschreibung, Berlin* 1776, 8vo. p. 169; *Osbeck's reise*, p. 18; the *Paris schau-platz der kunste*, and the *encyclopedie methodique des manufactures par Roland de la Platiere* art. *sparte*. Whether the ancients made shoes for their cattle of the *spartum junceum* or the *stipa tenacissima*, I will not venture to determine. It is probable that the former was used by the Greeks; and the latter by the Romans: and it is highly worthy of being here remarked, that in modern times a kind of socks for horses were made of a species of *spartum*, as we learn from John Leo, who says; *Quosdam reperius qui sportus certosque funiculos parant, quos Afrani equorum pedibus addere solent: J. Leonis Africa descriptio* Antverpiæ, 1556, 8vo. Lib. 3, p. 120.

Account of the South American plant Arracacha, from a description given by Mr. Vargas.

Annals of Botany, No. 2, p. 460.

The plant known in Santa fe de Bogota by the name of Arracacha, is one of the most useful of all the vegetables of that part of America. It belongs to the order of *Umbellifera*, and in its habits resembles an *Apium*;
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whence in some parts of the country it is called Apio. Its stalk generally divides from the upper part of the root into several stems, thickly beset with large orbicular leaves gashed into several sinuses, and supported by large tubular petioles, exceeding a goose quill in thickness. The roots immediately divide into four or five branches; and each of these, if the soil be light and the weather favourable, will grow to the size and have nearly the shape, of a large cow's horn. This root yields a food which is prepared in kitchens in the same manner as potatoes. It is extremely grateful to the palate, more close than mealy; it is so tender that it requires little cooking, and so easy of digestion, that it is the common practice in the country to give it to convalescents and persons with weak stomachs, being thought much less flatulent than potatoes. Of its fecula is made starch, and a variety of pastry; reduced to a pulp, this root also enters into the composition of certain fermented liquors, supposed to be very proper to restore the lost tone of the stomach. In the city of Santafe, and indeed in all places of this kingdom where they can obtain the arrhacacha, they are of full as universal use as potatoes are in England. The cultivation of the arrhacacha requires a deep black mould that will easily yield to the descent or the large vertical roots. The mode of propagating it is, to cut the root into pieces, each having an eye or shoot, and to plant them in separate holes. After three or four months the roots are of sufficient size and quantity to be used for culinary purposes; but if suffered to remain six months in the ground, they will often acquire an immense size, without any detriment to the taste. The colour of the root is either white, yellow, or purple; but all are of the same quality. The most esteemed in Santafe are those of Lipacon, a village about ten leagues north of the capital.

Like the potatoe, the arrhacacha does not thrive in the hotter regions of the kingdom; for there the roots will not acquire any size, but throw up a great number of stems, or at best

they will be but small and of indifferent flavour. In the countries which are there called temperate, being less hot than those at the foot of the Cordilleras, this vegetable is sometimes found to thrive, but never so well as in the elevated regions of these mountains, where the medium heat is between 58 and 60 of Fahrenheit's scale. Here it is that these roots grow most luxuriantly, and acquire the most delicious taste.

Mr. Vargas believes that this excellent plant is peculiar to the kingdom of Santafe and the province of Caracas, as he has not met with it in any other part of America where he has been, nor is it spoken of by any writer on America, except by Alcedo, who mentions it in a few words at the end of his *dictionario geographico historico de las Indias occidentales O America*. It is indeed surprising that such an useful vegetable should not have found a writer to make us acquainted with its history, or a Sir Walter Raleigh to convey it as a valuable present to the old world; we must therefore be obliged to Mr. Vargas even for this short notice of a plant, which seems not less useful than the potatoe; and which might also be cultivated in Europe, and easily conveyed thither either by seeds or shoots.

Observations....It is an extraordinary circumstance that some of our most useful culinary vegetables are of the same species as those of the most poisonous nature; thus the potatoe is classed with the solanum, or deadly night shade, and the carrot, parsnip, parsley and celeriac with hemlock; the useful plant described in this paper is also placed in this last class of plants, and from the above account of it, it seems to resemble the parsnip most of any of the vegetables used in this part of the world; though it would certainly be very desirable to introduce its culture here, it does not seem to us to deserve altogether the character given it above, "of being equal to the potatoe in utility," or at least, there can be no objection to our hesitating to agree to this assertion till it is better proved.

Of an American Shrub whose berries yield a permanent ink, from a description given by Mr. Vurgas.

Annals of Botany, No. 2.

In the same part of America where the arrhacacha is found, and indeed on the same elevated parts around Santafe, a shrub is met with called *Ubillo*, in habit much like the hawthorn, bearing innumerable small black berries, the expressed juice of which, without any preparation yields a permanent ink. At first before it is dry, the ink is of a pale red colour, but changes to a bright black as soon as it is exposed to the air. On staining one's hands, or any other part with it, several days are required to remove the spot. The only thing you can do is to wash the part with lemon juice, which converts the black into a rose colour. The juice of the *Ubillo* may be inspissated, and afterwards reduced to a powder: this is easily portable;

and to make ink extempore, it is only necessary to dissolve a small portion of it in water.

Observations... It is probable that this plant also might be brought to thrive in this country, as well as that mentioned in the last article.

Further account of the action of De Luc's dry Electric column.

The electrical column described in No. 21, and 22, has continued to keep the bells in motion on to the 21st of May, and seemed as little likely to cease as at first. It is supposed the bells have been ringing incessantly since the 25th of March. The sentence in our last number, which stated that they once ceased ringing in that period, proceeded from a typographical error in the Philosophical magazine.—The sentence should have been, since that time they have not been known once to cease ringing."

LIST OF NEW PUBLICATIONS.

RELIGION.

A Sermon on the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper; by Rev. James Rudge, A.B. of Pembroke College, Oxford, 1s. 6d.

A Sermon preached before the House of Lords, at Westminster-abbey; by Wm. Lord, Bishop of Bristol.

A view of the Brahminical Religion, in its confirmation of the Holy Scriptures, &c; by J.B.S. Carwithen, M.A. 10s. 6d.

Lectures preparatory to Confirmation, 2s.

POLITICS.

Six Letters of Publicola on the Liberty of the Subject, and the Privileges of the House of Commons, 3s.

Advice to the Whigs; with Hints to the Democrats; and Cautions to the Edinburgh Reviewers, 1s.

The True Briton, in Support of the Privileges of the House of Commons 1s. 6d.

Six Letters on Dr. Milner's Explanation, relative to the Veto, 3s.

Mr. Grattan's Speeches on the 18th of May, and 1st of June, on the Catholic Petition.

Remarks on the Late Commitments by the house of commons, and on the Character and Conduct of its opposers, 1s. 6d.

A letter Addressed to the Right Hon. Lord Glenville; by a Briton, 5s.

The Jurisdiction of the House of Lords, or Parliament considered according to Ancient Records; by Lord Chief Justice Hale, 4to. 1l. 7s.

MEDICINE, CHEMISTRY AND BOTANY.

Fourth Edition of Thompson's Chemistry, much improved and Enlarged, 8l. 15s.

An Introduction to the Linnean Classification of Plants, illustrated with Engravings; by Henry Wyburd, 5s.

Dr. Harrison's Address, on the Intended Act for Regulating Medical Education and Practice, 6s.

A Vindication of Vaccination; by O. W. Bartley, Surgeon, 1s. 6d.

An Inquiry into the History and Nature of the Disease produced by the use of Mercury; by Andrew Mathias, Surgeon to the Queen, &c. &c. 7s.

Rudiments of Chemical Philosophy; by N. Meredith, 4s.

A Treatise on the Cheltenham Waters, and Bilious Diseases; by Thos. Jameson, M.D. with Plates of the Town and Baths of Cheltenham.

POETRY.

A Monody to the Memory of Lord

Collingwood; by Lady Champion De Crespigny, 3s. 6d.

Iphigene, or the Longing fit, a Poem, 5s.

Magna Charta and Sir Francis Burdett, a Poem; by an Elector of Westminster, 1s. 6d.

The Siege of Acre, a Poem in 4 Books; by Mrs. Cowley, 6s.

The Sabine Farm, a Poem, 9s.

Tales of Romance, with other Poems; by C.A. Elton, 7s. 6d.

Woman, a Poem; by Eaton Stannard Barrett, esq. 4s. 6d.

NOVELS, TALES AND ROMANCES.

The Acceptance, in 3 vols. 15s.

Anne of Brittany, an Historical Romance, 13s. 6d.

The Daughter, 2 vols. 9s.

Mac Dermot, or the Irish Chieftain, a Romance; by John Agg, esq. 15s.

Herbert Lodge, a New Forest Story; by Miss Warner of Bath, 10s. 6d.

The Adulteress, a Moral Tale, 21s.

The Heir of Drumcondra, or Family Pride; by Maria-Julia Young, 15s.

Ferdinand and Ordella, a Russian Story, with Anecdotes of the Russian Court, 14s.

BOOKS ARRIVED FROM PARIS.

Second vol. of Voyage Pittoresque de la Grèce, par Choiseul Gouffier. Mémoires de Prince Eugene de Savoie.—Almanack Imperiale pour 1810,—La Septième Annee de l'Almanack des Gourmands &c. &c.

MISCELLANIES.

The Rival Princes, a Faithful Narrative of Facts relating to Mrs. Mary Anne Clarke's Political acquaintance with Colonel Wardle, Major Dodd, Mr. Glenzie, and an illustrious personage who were concerned in the Charges against the Duke of York. With a variety of Authentic Letters, and curious Anecdotes of several Persons of Political Notoriety; by Mary Anne Clarke, 18s.

The Theory of Dreams, in which an Inquiry is made into the Powers and Faculties of the Human Mind, 8s.

The Legal Degrees of Marriage, Stated and Considered; by John Alleyne, esq. Barrister at Law, 4s. 6d.

A Letter from John Bull to his Brother Thomas, 4d. or 3s. per dozen.

Observations on the Report of the Committee on Marine Insurance, in a Letter to Gaspar Vaux, esq. 9s. 6d.

The History of the National Debt from the Revolution in 1688 to 1800; by the Late J.J. Grellier Cashier to the Royal Exchange Assurance company, 14s.

Observations on the Manner of Conducting Marine Insurances in Great Britain, 2s. 6d.

Elements of Algebra, Translated from the French of Leonard Euler, 11 4s.

A Narrative of the Expedition to Candy, in Ceylon in 1804; by Major Johnson, then Captain Commandant of the Expedition.

An Inquiry into the effects of the Bank Restriction bill; by R. Mushet of the Mint, 4s.

The Life of Apollonius of Tyana, translated from the Greek of Philostratus; by the Rev. Edward Berwick, of Leixlip, 12s.

Travels through various parts of Europe, with near 100 plates; by Edward Daniel Clarke, L.L.D. Professor of Mineralogy, in the University of Cambridge, 31. 5s.

A Connected Series of Notes on the Chief Revolutions of the principal states, which composed the Empire of Charlemagne, from his Coronation in 814, to its dissolution in 1806, &c. &c; by Charles Butler, esq. 15s.

A short Account of the Adventures of Abraham Deodatus a London Reviewer; by John Type, esq. 5s.

The Second Volume of Hackluyt's collection of the Voyages and Travels of the English, 61. 6s.

Remarks on the Edinburgh Review of the Cambridge Eschylus, and Oxford Strabo; by Rev. S. Butler, A.M. 3s. 6d.

Remarks on several parts of Turkey; by Wm. Hamilton, esq. F.S.A. with Etchings from Original Drawings, 41. 4s. 6d.

An Essay on the Principles of Philosophical Criticism, applied to Poetry; by Joseph Harpur, L.L.B. Oxford.

Bloomfield's Topographical History of the County of Norfolk, containing the whole Matter of Five vols. Folio, in 11 vols. 8vo. 31. 18s.

An Apology for the Petition for Liberty of Conscience; by the Rev. Christopher Weyvill, 1s. 6d.

Remarks on the State of the Causes Depending in the House of Lords, particularly as affecting the Jurisdiction of Scotland, 2s. 6d.

An Address from a Clergyman to his Parishioners; by Richard Valpy, D.D.F. T.A.S. 3s. 6d.

The State of Ireland considered; the History and Operation of Tithes, with a Plan for Modifying that System, and Providing for the Dissenting, and Popish Clergy.

The Artist, a Series of Essays on Painting, Poetry, Sculpture, Architecture, the Drama, &c. by Celebrated Artists, and other Eminent Men, Edited by Prince Hoare, esq. Secretary to the Royal Academy, 21. 2s.

Illustrations of the Lives and Writings of Gower and Chaucer, from Authentic Documents; by Rev. H.T. Todd, M.A. T.S.A. 1's.

The Theological and Miscellaneous Works of the Rev. William Jones M.A.F.R.S. with an Account of his Life and Writings; by William Stephens, &c. 3l. 3s.

A Compendious History of the Israelites; by R. Atkins, 2s.

William and Jacob, or the Advice of a True Friend; published by the Christian Tract Society, 1d or 8d. per dozen.

NOTICE OF BOOKS TO BE PUBLISHED.

The following Work from the Pen of Mrs.

Mary Leadbenter of Ballitore, is shortly to make its appearance.

COTTAGE DIALOGUES.

A little Work meant to Serve the Poor, by introducing in Dialogues between Persons of Opposite Characters, the Advantages and Disadvantages of Good and Bad Management.

The Manner of Delineation, including most incidents in the Humble Annals of the Lives of those for whom it is designed, is interesting, and cannot fail to be useful, if the Poor can be induced to read it, and if the Price be brought within their Compass to purchase,

MONTHLY RETROSPECT OF POLITICS.

IT is difficult in a monthly review of political events to diversify the manner of narration so as not to run into a sameness of language, as the events of one month are so much in correspondence similar to those of the preceding, and the progress of the human mind is seldom so rapid, as in the course of one month to present features essentially different. At some periods no visible alterations strikingly appear for a long time; even at present the progress is not very rapid, for although the people are gradually awakening from their dream of terrors, into which they were driven by Pitt and his followers, and the incubus of Jacobinism is loosing its hold on the terrified imaginations of many, yet still like people newly awaked, but not yet arisen, the energy of healthful vigour rousing all the faculties of the mind to virtuous exertions, is wanting. In England public meetings have been held in many places, and strong resolutions passed against corruption, and in favour of reform, and especially against the power of the house of commons to imprison without a trial, which in case of that house being at any time leagued with a corrupt and wicked ministry might be made a potent engine of oppression against the liberties of the people. Petitions on these subjects have been presented from several places to the house

of commons, some of which were suffered to be laid on the table, and others not materially different were rejected. As a specimen of the spirit of the times, and as a record of passing events, a few of the resolutions are placed among the documents, but it would occupy too much space to give the whole. *It affords a subject of national humiliation to find that not a single petition has been presented from Ireland.* To what cause is this self-degradation attributable? whether to deficient energy after a too high state of excitement, or to a combination of apathy and selfishness which threaten the extinction of public virtue?

Mr. Brand's motion for a committee to consider of the present defective state of the representation of the people was negatived by a large majority, while an attempt was made to save character and hold out compensation to the people, and a show of economical reform by a motion being carried, in which the minister was left in a minority, for the abolition of sinecure places. Amid the cart loads of abuses, a few shovels full more or less, are of little importance. A radical and effectual check to corruption, through a renovated house of commons can alone serve us. Pitt, before his coming into power, asserted that no virtuous minister could long serve his country, while the representation continued as

it was then, and it is now no better. While the system of the borough mongers continues, and they are clamorous for pickings to themselves, their families, and their dependents, ministers must sacrifice the public good to satisfy their cravings. "We are already three in a bed," was the language of the Fox and Grenville administration; this shews the state of thralldom in which they were held by the importunities of their supporters, and exhibits the dangers to which the best interests of the country are exposed, while such a system is permitted to exist.

In Ireland we have to balance a judicious relaxation in the insurrection and arms acts against an additional load of taxation. Taxes must be increased, unless public expenditure is lessened, and while things go on in the present state without reform, governors are not interested in retrenchment, as their private emoluments and the increase of their political power, are upheld, at least for a time, as long as they can get the nearly worn out machine to work, by a wasteful and profuse expenditure.

The subject of Catholic emancipation is postponed for the present, yet appearances are flattering in favour of this measure of justice and policy being ultimately carried. The subterfuge of holding out the royal conscience as an obstacle, is for a time abandoned, and the proposal of claiming for the crown a right of rejection on the nomination of Catholic bishops is eagerly substituted, both by the ins and the outs, as a pretext for not acceding to the prayer of the reasonable petitions of the Catholics. The sincerity of such objection was put to the test by the offer of Henry Parnell, to adjourn the committee for two weeks, to give time to the Catholics to offer an election of bishops, purely domestic, and free from foreign influence, but yet consistent with the canons of their church, as a substitute for the very objectionable claim of investing a veto in the ministers of the day, a claim at once unfair, as giving a power to a Protestant government over a church to which they must necessarily be opposed in opinion, and also materially increasing the already overgrown

power of the crown. We have decidedly been advocates for domestic elections, independent of the pope, the crown, and we earnestly entreat our Catholic fellow countrymen to be prepared against next session, to contest this domestic election, a plan which is understood not inconsistent with the doctrines and ancient discipline of the church, and to which we are informed a large portion of their body is favourable. By such liberal concession, they would manifest a disposition to meet their Protestant brethren and remove many of the cavils, to which their just claims to emancipation are opposed.

A petition has been presented to the house of commons, subjoined among the documents, for unlimited liberty of conscience, and the repeal of all penalties and disabilities, on account of religious opinions. At the head of an association for this truly enlightened purpose is Christopher Wyvill, a clergyman of the church of England, long known as a veteran advocate in the cause of civil and religious liberty.

William Windham has paid the great debt of nature. Since his death the public prints have been lavish in his praise. The language of correct estimation may probably be materially different. A pupil in the school of Burke, he largely partook of his high wrought prejudices. He was metaphysical without possessing coolness of judgment; and in the consistent advocate for bull-baiting, and interminable war, we often recognised the effusions of genius, but not the mild virtues of genuine philanthropy and kindness of heart. In the present awful crisis, his rash and impetuous temper often hurried him into an intemperance of language, by no means suitable to the grave deliberation, which our alarming situation renders peculiarly necessary, while his unbending prejudices made him a decided opponent to the changes which the present state of the world, and the progress of knowledge imperiously demand, as absolutely necessary to our safety as a nation, unless blind to experience, and the awful lessons exhibited on the continent, we cling close to abuses, until

ey ultimately work the ruin of the stem.

It is consolatory to the friends of unanimity to perceive that the enlightened and persevering advocates of the abolition of the slave trade are at their posts, and that the evasions to the act for abolishing this inhuman trade are brought before parliament.

The following are the exact words of the resolution and address, moved by Mr. Brougham, on the African slave trade, which must interest every feeling heart :

RESOLUTION.

"That this house has learnt with the greatest surprize and indignation, that certain persons in this country have recently been guilty of evading the prohibitions of the acts abolishing the African slave trade, and that this house will, early in the next session take into its consideration such measures as may effectually prevent such daring violations of the law."

ADDRESS.

"That an humble address be presented to his majesty, representing to his majesty that this house has taken into its serious consideration the papers which his majesty was graciously pleased to cause to be laid before this house upon the subject of the African slave-trade.

"That while this house acknowledges, with gratitude, the endeavours which his majesty has been pleased to use in compliance with the wishes of parliament, to induce foreign nations to concur in relinquishing that disgraceful commerce, this house has to express its deep regret, that those efforts have been attended with so little success.

"That this house does most earnestly beseech his majesty to persevere in those measures which may tend to induce his allies, and such other foreign states as he may be enabled to negotiate with, to co-operate with this country in a general abolition of the slave-trade, and to concur in the adoption of such measures as may assist in the effectual execution of the laws already passed for that purpose.

"That this house has learnt with the greatest surprize and indignation, that certain persons in this country

have not scrupled to continue, in a clandestine and fraudulent manner, the detestable traffic in slaves.

"And, that this house does most humbly pray his majesty, that he will be graciously pleased to cause to be given to the commanders of his majesty's ships and vessels of war, the officers of his majesty's customs, and the other persons in his majesty's service, whose situation enables them to detect and suppress those abuses, such orders as may effectually check practices equally contemptuous to the authority of parliament, and derogatory to the interests and the honour of the country."

The session of parliament was closed on the 21st. Its character was summed up by one of the members, Mr. Calcraft, on the day previous to the prorogation in the following appropriate terms, "The house during the session had done nothing to raise itself in the estimation of the public."—The acquittal of the planners of the Walcheren expedition, and the imprisonment of John Gale Jones, and Sir Francis Burdett are its characteristic features. Many consider that acquittal of the guilty, and punishment of the innocent and meritorious, went together. On the prorogation, John Gale Jones, and Sir Francis Burdett were immediately liberated. A large procession assembled to celebrate the triumph, and decidedly to manifest the bent of popular feeling; and it was a glorious and peaceable triumph. Large bodies of the military paraded the streets, but happily there was no pretext for their interference. The sheriff conducted themselves in a highly commendable manner. They hurried to remove any occasional obstruction, and by the whole proceeding of the day, fully exemplified that the civil power, if properly exerted, is fully competent to preserve good order, and that the introduction of a military force rather tends to create, than prevent those disorders, which it is called upon to quell. We shall give the sequel in the words of the Morning Chronicle:

"The Strand and the principal streets through which the procession had passed, were illuminated at night, a crowd parading the streets, and

calling out for lights; and windows were broken where no lights were put up. The sheriffs exerted themselves; and Mr. Sheriff Wood addressed the crowd opposite the Morning post office. He stated that the sheriffs had exerted themselves, and hitherto with success, to preserve the peace of the cities of London and Westminster without the aid of the military. No man could be more friendly to their cause than he was; and he requested they would consider that nothing could be more injurious to that cause than riot and disorder. He begged of them to reflect what their enemies would say tomorrow, if they conducted themselves improperly. He had neither time nor inclination to make a long speech, but he hoped they would have the good sense immediately to disperse. A shout of applause followed. The sheriffs rode on, and the crowd dispersed instantaneously."

Sir Francis privately withdrew from the tower to his seat at Wimbledon, and disappointed the people by not taking his designed place in the procession. A temporary chagrin succeeded this disappointment, but his enemies have been more bitterly disappointed. He has discovered to them that he possessed the self-denial to resist an opportunity of shining conspicuously, and indulging in a vanity, which many would count justifiable. Strong reasons support the opinion that Sir Francis Burdett is not a demagogue, wishing to catch the transient breath of popular applause, but actuated by pure principles, and a fixed, steady, deeply rooted resolution to do his duty, he may be thoroughly confided in, AS THE COOL INTREPID ASSERTOR OF THE RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE.

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

SMITH MAYOR.

A common Council was holden in the Chamber of the Guildhall of the city of London, on Wednesday the 6th day of June, 1810.

RESOLVED,

That an humble petition be presented from the court to the honourable the house of commons, representing that, in approaching that honourable house, to lay before them the numerous grievances under

which we labour, we acknowledge their undoubted right to exercise all fair, just, and constitutional privileges, originally intended, and wisely continued, for maintaining the dignity, independence, and security of their deliberations and proceedings.

That while we feel it our duty to support and uphold that honourable house, at all times, and under all circumstances, in the possession of these privileges, we cannot but lament that the late exercise of their power, in the arrest and imprisonment of two of our fellow-subjects, should have produced consequences most afflicting and deplorable in their nature.

That, without entering into the merits of a question which is shortly to undergo legal decision, we cannot forbear expressing our concern and sorrow, that at a time when the whole nation was anxiously looking to an inquiry of the most important kind, the people should have been debarred from the said inquiry by the enforcement of one of their standing orders—a measure calculated to distract the public attention from the gross misconduct of his majesty's ministers, and tending to screen from condign punishment the criminal authors of unexampled disgraces and calamities.

That we have seen, with astonishment and indignation, the person who enforced the standing order rewarded with a lucrative sinecure, and, notwithstanding the decided and degrading rejection of the tender made by him, once more to represent his constituents in parliament, afterwards raised to one of the highest offices under the crown.

That under these extraordinary and almost incredible circumstances of trust improvidently bestowed, and of emolument and honour lavishly conferred, alike insulting to the nation at large, and destructive of all mutual confidence, we have beheld, with regret and astonishment, the silence and seeming indifference, both of the hereditary counsellors of the crown, and of the representatives of the people.

That we earnestly entreat the attention of that honourable house to the great and imminent dangers in which we conceive the country is involved, to the manifold injuries and abuses we consider it to be sustaining from those who preside over its councils, and to the means we humbly presume to think are best adapted to produce a better and happier state of things.

That during a warfare of unparalleled misery, expenditure and destruction, we have submitted to unprecedented burthens and privations.

That these burthens have been greatly

aggravated by unequal taxation, capricious assessments, vexatious surcharges, and arbitrary inquisitions into our private concerns.

That during the severe pressure of an enormously increased and increasing weight of taxation, abuses, frauds, corruptions and perulations, no less enormous, have been found to exist.

That these burthens have been further increased by a profusion of useless places and pensions.

That by such shameful frauds, waste and prodigality, our burthens have been augmented, our sufferings aggravated, and our feelings outraged.

That, although there has appeared no deficiency of means to levy and enforce the payment of taxes, we have to complain that no adequate means have yet been devised to prevent the misapplication of them, nor any law nor tribunal found sufficient to correct abuse, or bring great public delinquents to justice.

That these enormous abuses are not only felt as intolerable grievances, materially impairing the property of the people, but by means of the most monstrous and pernicious influence they create, are subversive of the vital principles of the constitution.

That their natural operation is to render the legislative subservient to the executive power,—a juncture, in which it has been predicted by the ablest politicians that the constitution would inevitably perish.

That, duly impressed with the magnitude of our external dangers, we are, nevertheless, of opinion, that these internal abuses, corruptions and violations of law, as they are the more insidious, are also the more fearful and alarming.

That we concur in a declaration recorded upon the journals of the house of lords, in a protest signed by the late Duke of Portland, and thirty-one more peers; “that from the history of this as well as other countries, times of necessity have always been times of reform.”

That we cannot but express our concurrence with another part of the said protest—“Because, however the waste of public money, and the profusion of useless salaries may have been hitherto overlooked, in days of wealth and prosperity, the necessities of the present times can no longer endure the same system of corruption and prodigality.”

That without recurring to those facts and circumstances, universally known and admitted, by which it appears that a majority of members are returned through the influence of government, of peers,

and other individuals speculating in the rights and liberties of their fellow subjects, the evils already stated, afford sufficient evidence of the pernicious influence existing, and the want of a real and efficient representation.

That it is equally notorious, that a very considerable number of the members of that honourable house hold lucrative places, appointments, and sinecures under the crown; almost invariably supporting the existing administration, or evading inquiry for the correction and reform of abuses.

That the influence, which such appointments must create, is not confined to those who possess, but extends to others, desirous of obtaining them, and who, we are well assured, seek seats in that honourable house, at considerable expense, for that purpose only.

That however notorious these facts have been, never before has corruption, in the return of members, and the sale of seats, been publicly avowed in that honourable house, by members of the government and others.

That it has appeared that lord Castlereagh, a member of the House of commons, and a minister of the crown, was guilty of a high breach of the constitution, by trafficking for a seat in parliament in exchange for a writership; and that, although he himself admitted the fact, no punishment, nor even censure was inflicted upon him, but that on the contrary, he was, in defiance of all decency, and in contempt of public opinion, suffered to retain his official situation.

That while the said lord Castlereagh, and the right Hon. Spencer Perceval, another member of that honourable house, and also a minister of the crown, were charged with another high breach of the constitution; the first in the disposal of a seat, and the second in conniving thereat, a motion for inquiry into the same was rejected, upon the declared ground of the frequency of such practices.

That contrary to every principle of justice, the very ground of aggravation was thereby made an excipation of the crime. That it is our decided conviction that nothing short of a reform in the representation of the people in parliament, can correct the inveterate abuses, and repair the breaches in the constitution.

That had the people been faithfully represented, there would have been no ruinous wars for the preservation of a German electorate—no subsidies levied upon the labour and industry of the nation, to be squandered in fruitless conti-

mental attachments, no army of foreign mercenaries in the very heart of the land; no wretchedly contrived campaigns for the relief and emancipation of the great and gallant people of Spain, rendered still more painful by the extraordinary valour of British soldiers, and the miserable policy of British statesmen—no prodigal waste of blood and treasure in the preposterous and ill-fated expedition to Walcheren and the Scheldt—no escape of public peculators and robbers from merited punishment—no men advanced to high places of honour and emolument who had been deemed unworthy of the confidence of their constituents, no tax upon income, in which the means of acquiring the nature and variation of property are levelled, confounded, and swallowed up.

We therefore pray that honourable house to take all these matters into their serious consideration, and to devise such means as by the destruction of corrupt, depopulated, and nominal boroughs, the extension of the elective franchise, the exclusion of placemen and pensioners, and the abridged duration of parliaments, will secure to the people their full share of the rights, liberties, and blessings, which the constitution undeniably meant they should enjoy.

WOODTHORPE.

THE CHRISTIAN'S PETITION,
PRESENTED TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS
BY SAMUEL WHITBREAD, ESQ. ON FRIDAY,
JUNE 8TH, 1810.

To the honourable the commons of the United Kingdom in parliament assembled, the humble petition of the undersigned Christians in behalf of themselves, and others, who agree with them in considering absolute liberty of conscience respecting religion to be the unalienable right of all men.

SHewETH,

That it is the duty of all men, to examine as diligently as may be in their power the doctrines of religion; and after such diligent examination, to adopt and to profess what may appear to them to be the truth; and that in the performance of that duty men ought not to be obstructed or discouraged, or otherwise tempted to act hypocritically by any law, tending to bias them in the course of such examination in the doctrine of religion, by subjecting them in the case of their dissenting from the doctrines of any established church, to suffer death by burning or otherwise; or to suffer any

corporal or pecuniary punishment, or be injured in their reputation by any disability more or less disgraceful.

That your petitioners acknowledge with high satisfaction, that in the present reign considerable progress has been made towards the full restoration of the rights of conscience by the wisdom of parliament and the benignity of the king, rescinding various laws in whole or in part which were violations of those rights: yet since other penal laws not less injurious to those rights remain unrepealed, since some of these laws subject to corporal punishments or pecuniary penalties; others, as in case of the test laws past in the reign of Charles the 2d, subject to disgrace, disability and privation of civil rights, persons whose only offence it is, that in conformity with their duty, they have examined the doctrines of religion, and by such examination have been induced to embrace and to profess religious opinions different from the doctrines of the established church; your petitioners feel it to be their duty humbly, but earnestly to remonstrate against the longer continuance of any of these intolerant laws; and they do in conformity with the premises expressly petition this honourable house, that every such unjust law may be repealed, and the rights of conscience may thus be restored to all the subjects of this united kingdom; at the same time they declare to this honourable house, that if the legislature of our country should not feel themselves convinced, as your petitioners do, that every trace of intolerance ought to be expunged from our statutes, yet if the repeal or modification of any of our intolerant laws should now take place, particularly if the test laws, as far as they affect our military force by sea and land, should now be repealed, your petitioners would view with sincere gratitude any such measure, as a still farther advance towards the complete restoration of the rights of conscience, and at this crisis would consider it as having a salutary tendency to allay religious animosities, and to unite the great mass of the community, in a zealous defence of the empire against the meditated attack of our gigantic and all-grasping enemy.

And your petitioners shall ever pray.

To the christian's petition for liberty of conscience the signatures annexed, by Roman Catholics, members of the church of England, and protestant dissenters, which are contained in sixteen duplicates, amount to, viz.

	Names.
In the duplicate from Sheffield	73
In that from Richmond	66
Newcastle	40
Hull	49
Leeds	156
Derby	183
Loughborough	60
York and Wakefield	29
Stockton	40
Nottingham	190
London	117
Exeter	109
Taunton	84
Gloucester	68
Birmingham	130
Norwich	170

The total amount of 16 duplicates 1560

N. B. A duplicate from Manchester containing 93 signatures, on account of informality, has been kept back.

TOWN OF NOTTINGHAM.

WRIGHT COLDHAM, ESQ. MAYOR.

At a numerous public meeting of the electors and inhabitant housekeepers of the said town, convened by the mayor, at the Guildhall, in the said town, on Monday the 28th day of May, 1810, in compliance with a requisition of many respectable electors and housekeepers, and thence, for want of sufficient room, adjourned to the market-place.

MR. ALDERMAN HOWITT, IN THE CHAIR;
The following Resolutions were passed unanimously:

Resolved, 1. That the constitution of this kingdom, contained in the great charter signed by King John, and confirmed by the bill of rights, at the glorious era of the revolution, possesses our highest approbation and veneration, and shall ever obtain our cordial support as being the birthright of Englishmen.

2. That the violation of any of the clauses of these bulwarks of the constitution is an infringement on the liberties of Britons, and deserves our severest animadversions and unqualified censure.

3. That by Magna Charta it is established, that "no freeman shall be taken or imprisoned, or dispossessed of his free tenement and liberties, or outlawed or banished, or any wise hurt or injured, unless by the legal judgment of his peers, or by the law of the land;" that this right was further confirmed by a statute passed in the reign of Edward the third, enacting that "no man of what state or condition soever, shall be put out of land or tenement, nor taken, nor imprisoned, nor disinherited, nor put to death, without being brought in answer by due process

of the law;" that in the bill of rights it is declared, "that the pretended power of suspending laws, or the execution of laws by legal (much less by any other) authority, without consent of parliament, is illegal;" and it is further added, that "we do claim, demand, and insist upon all and singular the premises as our undoubted rights and privileges."

4. That with regret and indignation we learn that one branch of the legislature alone, the commons house of parliament, has assumed to itself the offices of prosecutor, judge, jury, and executioner: that this honourable house has immured within the walls of a prison, and detained during its pleasure, one of our fellow subjects, upon a charge cognizable in our common courts of law, where he might have been legally tried by twelve of his peers; that by the command of this same honourable house, another of our fellow subjects, the friend of the people, the defender of our liberties, for an appeal to his constituents (which we conceive not only to be the right, but the duty of every representative) has been dragged from his house, his castle, by an army of soldiers, and imprisoned in the tower.

5. That we are the more alarmed at this assumption of privilege, on account of the partiality with which it is exercised; that it appears to us to originate in a determined wish to subvert the liberties and rights of Britons, and to destroy the spirit of the British constitution; for whilst the vilest state delinquents, who suck the heart's blood of the constitution, and consume its very vitals, escape unpunished; the attack is levelled against its best friends, its most firm supporters; and whilst the man who endeavours to exclude the people from a knowledge of the conduct of their representatives, and who with ignominy and contempt is hurled from his station by his justly incensed constituents, is elevated to a post of high dignity, honour and responsibility, the petitions and remonstrances of thousands of the most enlightened Britons are contemptuously dismissed.

6. That we cannot in language sufficiently strong, express our detestation at the crimes, and our contempt of the imbecility of those ministers who have kept the authors of all the recent sufferings and calamities of Britons; men who appear to us equally weak and wicked; men who can send thousands of the bravest British heroes to perish by disease and pestilence, lest, forsooth, they should be thought to be actuated "by the rigid precepts of cold precaution."—Men who have planted cannon in our streets to ever-

awe the public voice : men whose object, as far as we can judge from their conduct, appears to be to drive the people to desperation, but who have hitherto been unsuccessful in their detestable attempt : men who are our sovereign's greatest enemies, by endeavouring to expose his name to odium, in order to screen themselves from an awful responsibility : men who have entwined laurels on the brow of England's enemy, but are their nation's curse, and their country's fellest foes.

7, That with the deepest sorrow we lament, that, in the midst of those grievances and calamities, we have turned our eyes in vain for the preservation of our rights and privileges, to that band of senators which formerly possessed our confidence and support ; we lament, that they have disappointed the hopes and expectations of the country. But whilst we watch them with an eye of jealousy and mistrust we shall be ready to return to them, when they return to the defence of the people's cause, and give us a solemn pledge of their disinterestedness and sincerity.

8, That the pledge which we demand is, that they do not sacrifice the liberties of the people to their own undefined privileges, and use constant and unceasing exertions to obtain a thorough reform in the common house of parliament. To this we look as necessary to the security of our liberties, to the salvation of our country. If the house of commons be not the representative of the people, but of pretence, where is the people's voice to be heard ; where is their cause to be pleaded ? When the house of commons shall truly represent the people, the privileges of the commons and the liberties of the people will be one.—They will then ensure at once our respect, our confidence, and our firm and united support.

9, That this meeting present an petition to the honourable house of commons, praying for a parliamentary reform, &c. and that the said petition be transmitted to Daniel Parker Coke, and John Smith, esquires, our representatives, for presentation ; who are hereby instructed to support the same.

10, That this meeting present an address to Sir Francis Burdett, expressive of their gratitude for his patriotic conduct in defence of our liberties.

11, That the thanks of this meeting be given to Lord Erskine, to Lord Cochrane, to Lord Polkstone, to Sir Samuel Romilly, to Mr. Whitbread, to Colonel Warde, and to General Matthew, for their undeviating upright conduct on all public oc-

casions, when the liberty and independence of their countrymen have called for their exertions.

12, That the thanks of this meeting be given to Mr. Brand, for his motion to obtain a reform of parliament ; to our worthy representative, John Smith, esq. and to the other one hundred and thirteen members of the house of commons, who supported the same.

W. HOWIT, Chairman.

TO SIR FRANCIS BURDETT.

The Address of the Electors and Inhabitants of the Town of Nottingham in full meeting assembled.

SIR,

In a period of general depravity and corruption, when all classes are more or less the slaves of licentiousness and vice, and from some, virtue seems almost to have taken her flight, when private interest almost universally predominates over the public good, it requires no common degree of firmness and integrity to stand forth, and oppose the impetuous torrent.—In such circumstances, the man is rarely to be found, who can at once resist the temptations of wealth and power, despise the taunts and ridicule of those who have sacrificed conscience at the shrine of interest, brave the threats of those who strive to crush all opposition with the iron hand of power, smile at the frown of adversity, and remain undaunted at the sight of the walls of a prison. But rare as is the discovery, we are willing to hope and believe that the people of England have found such a man in you.

In this dearth of public virtue, labouring under repeated disappointments, though not yet sunk into despair, we naturally become cautious in giving full credit to any man, until his integrity has been tried, and we have reason to believe that his private conduct corresponds with his public professions. From what we have been able to learn of your private life, the duties of the several relations in which you stand to society, whether as landlord, husband, father or friend, have been properly fulfilled. With the greater confidence, therefore, we have looked for a fruitful discharge of your public duties, nor have our expectations been hitherto disappointed. When by what is generally deemed a trifling sacrifice of principle, you might have basked in the sun shine of prosperity, you have chosen to weather the storms of adversity, folded in the mantle of integrity.

At one time the object of general odium, insulted by an intemperate and mis-

wicked people, you shrink not from the field of duty to seek popular applause. But at length, in a great measure through your instrumentality, the eyes of the people are opened, their burdens have made them feel, and their feelings have enlightened their understandings. They now see their real friends, and are ready to offer their tribute of gratitude to you. For your recent conduct, for your firm stand in defence of the liberties and rights of Britons accept our unqualified

thanks. But gratifying as the expression of the approbation of your fellow subjects must necessarily be to your feelings, we trust that you possess a much higher source of gratification in the approbation of your own conscience. Go on sir, in your honourable career, no effort is lost. Let us not in this instance suffer disappointment. So shall the virtuous part of your fellow subjects revere and love you, and the blessing of him that was ready to perish, shall come upon you.

MILITARY EXPEDITIONS.

Sent by England to the continent of Europe, from the commencement of the war between Great Britain and France, in 1793, to the present period.

We have taken the pains to draw, into one point of view, a history of the military expeditions sent from this country to the Continent, within the last sixteen years.—
Gloss.

PITT ADMINISTRATION.

EXPEDITION TO FRANCE.

When sent—Feb. 1793,
Commander—Duke of York,
Force—33,000 men,
Object—Conquest of France,

Failed—after a loss of 28,000 men, and an immense quantity of cannon and stores, the wreck of the army returned to England, in March 1795.

SECOND EXPEDITION TO FRANCE.

When sent—May 1794,
Commander—Earl Moira,
Force—10,000 troops,
Object—Re-establishment of
royalty in Brittany,

Failed—Could not effect a landing in Brittany; sailed to Ostend; and shared the fortune's of the Duke of York's ill-fated army.

EXPEDITION TO QUINCY.

When sent—June 1795,
Commander—M. Paisaye,
Force—12,000 troops,
Object—to penetrate to Paris.

Failed—3/4ths of the Anglo-emigrant army were lost, to ether with 70,000 stand of arms, magazines, and clothing for 40,000 men, a large sum in specie, and 6 ships richly laden.

FIRST EXPEDITION TO HOLLAND.

When sent—May 1793,
Commander—General Coote,
Force 12,00 troops,
Object—to destroy the navigation of Holland, &c.

Failed—the works of the Bruges canal were blown up, and required some weeks repair, But general Coote and his army fell into the hands of the enemy.

SECOND EXPEDITION TO HOLLAND.

When sent—August 1799,
Commanders—Duke of York
and generals Hermann and
Basson.
Force—27,000 English, and
20,000 Russians.
Object—deliverance of Europe,

Failed—Lost nearly half the army, and entered into a capitulation on the 18th of October, whereby the Duke agreed, on condition of being allowed to re-embark, to liberate 8000 French and Batavians, then prisoners in England.

FOX ADMINISTRATION.

EXPEDITION TO ITALY.

When sent—July 1806,
Commander—Sir J. Stuart,
Force—5000 troops,
Object—expulsion of the
French from Italy,

Failed in the object, but succeeded in vanquishing a French army of 7600 men, 4000 of whom were either killed, wounded, or taken prisoners.

PORTLAND ADMINISTRATION.

EXPEDITION TO COPENHAGEN.

When sent—August 1807.
Commander—Lord Cathcart,
Force—20,000 soldiers,

Succeeded—England, while in a state of profound peace with Denmark, bombarded her capital; set fire to her metropolis; killed vast numbers of inha-

Object—to obtain possession of the Danish fleet.

bitants; burnt down 400 houses; took from her 15 ships of the line, 15 frigates, 6 brigs, and 25 gun-boats, besides vessels on the stocks, together with naval stores, to the amount of 20,000 tons.

“That which is morally wrong, cannot be politically right.” Fox.

EXPEDITION TO SWEDEN.

When sent—May 1808,
Commander—Sir J. Moore,
Force—14,000 troops,
Object—to aid Sweden against Russia,

Failed—Gustavus, put Sir John Moore under arrest; he escaped with difficulty; and his army, after remaining on board the transports several weeks, returned to England.

FIRST EXPEDITION TO SPAIN.

When sent—July 1808,
Commander—Sir A. Wellesley,
Force—10,000 troops
Object—to assist Spain,

The Junta of Galicia declined the proffered assistance, asserting that they wanted not men, but merely arms, ammunition, and money: advised Sir Arthur to proceed to Portugal.

FIRST EXPEDITION TO PORTUGAL.

When sent—August 1808,
Commander—Sir A. Wellesley;
superseded by Sir Harry Burrard
superseded by Sir Haw Dalrymple!
Force—27,000 troops,
Object—Expulsion of the French from the peninsula,

Failed—The campaign which produced the victory of Vimiera, was terminated by the memorable convention of Cintra. The French army was sent home in safety, and the principal part of the British army was sent to Spain. The remnant of our forces subsequently quitted Portugal on the advance of the French.

SECOND EXPEDITION TO SPAIN.

When sent—Nov. 1808,
Commander—Sir J. Moore,
Force—28,000 troops
Object—expulsion of the French from Spain,

Failed—The English army advanced from the coast, into the interior of Spain, but finding themselves unsupported by the “Universal Spanish Nation,” and the French armies advancing upon them, they were obliged to retreat to the coast, and finally re-embark at Corunna, where their gallant commander fell: 13d of his army having perished by famine and the sword.

FURTHER EXPEDITIONS TO PORTUGAL AND SPAIN.

When sent—April 1809,
Commander—Sir A. Wellesley,
Force—30,000 troops (the number asked by Sir Arthur, to drive the French out of the peninsula.)
Object—the deliverance of Spain,

Failed—Sir Arthur having penetrated to Talavera, obtained a problematical victory over Joseph Bonaparte; but being ill-supported by the Spanish armies, and reduced to great extremities for want of provisions, owing to the apathy of the junta, and the want of cordiality in the people, was obliged to retreat and has arrived at Elvas, on the frontier of Portugal. His army is greatly reduced in numbers, some accounts say to 15,000.

EXPEDITION TO ISCHIA AND PROCIDA.

When sent—June 1809,
Commander—Sir J. Stuart,
Force—18,000 troops,
Object—diversion in favour of Austria,

Failed—Took possession of the islands, which he afterwards abandoned without having detained or withdrawn any part of the French force from the Danube.

THIRD EXPEDITION TO HOLLAND.

When sent—August 1809,
Commander Earl Chatham,
Force—50,000 troops,
Object—diversion in favour of Austria, and the destruction of the enemy's fleet at Antwerp,

Failed—The expedition was not dispatched till the armistice of the 12th of July had terminated the contest between France and Austria. Returned with 10,000 sick, without attempting any operation against the fleet at Antwerp. Obtained possession of Walcheren and Beveland, the latter of which places has since been lost.

PUBLIC OCCURRENCES.

BRITISH.

A society has been lately formed at Liverpool, for preventing wanton cruelty to brute animals. At their first general meeting they appointed a committee to prepare an account of the objects of the society, and of the modes which they might deem best fitted to secure the accomplishment of those objects; and this committee accordingly presented a report; of which the following is the substance: "The great object of the society is, to meliorate the state of brute animals, by preventing those sufferings which they unnecessarily experience at the hand of man. Your committee judge that you may aim to accomplish this object in two ways. 1. By the exercise of coercion with respect to those who are guilty of cruelty to brute animals. 2. By the diffusion of such principles and feelings as shall be incompatible with the existence of that spirit whence cruelty to animals originates. The coercion exercised may be of three sorts; that of the laws, that of shame, and that of individual discountenance. For one of the species of cruelty towards brute animals, existing in this town (we mean the overloading of carters' horses) the law has provided a remedy. All that your committee, therefore, judge to be needful for the removal of this evil, is the due enforcement of the law. The sense of shame may they think, be turned to good account in the service of this society. A man may be perfectly indifferent to the sufferings of brute animals, who may, nevertheless, dread that the public should talk of his cruelty. Your committee propose, therefore, that a committee be appointed for the purpose of enquiring into reported cases of cruelty, and of publishing the accounts of them (when the facts are well established) in the papers of the day. They recommend that your statement should wear an official form: the credit which they would receive would be proportioned, of course, to the opinion entertained by the public of your reporting committee. Cases of a most flagitious nature, might occasionally

occur, in which it might be advisable to publish the names of the parties: in general, however, your committee think that this step would not be requisite. Individual discountenance may be manifested in different ways: in every mode in which such discountenance can be given by you, severally, to acts of cruelty, in every such mode do your committee recommend that it be shewn. But what they would particularly recommend to you at this time, as applying an especial remedy to particular evils which they have in view, is discountenance in the way of trade. There are some tradesmen, as your committee think, whose very gain is derived from brute animals, who are frequently or habitually careless respecting the sufferings of their beasts; and of some of whom it may be said, that the misery of the beasts subjected to them, is almost a necessary result of their peculiar mode of conducting their business. Your committee suggest to you, in your individual capacities, that where you have occasion to employ tradesmen of such classes, the consideration of the manner in which different individuals among them treat their beasts, should have great weight with you in your decision, as to which of those tradesmen you employ. They think to that where fair occasions occur, the ground of preference should be distinctly stated; otherwise that connexion may not be observed between the offence and the consequence, the observation of which is necessary to the securing of its full operation to your conduct. The abuses which have appeared to your committee to be most prevalent in this town, and to call for the most immediate attention, and to which they would apply some of the above-stated principles of redress, are those practised by carters and by butchers. Concerning carters, they have told you that they mean, at the close of this report, to submit to you a resolution. The cruelties of butchers are displayed, chiefly when they are driving their beasts into or through the

town One of your committee saw a sheep with one of its horns torn out of the socket, stated by the populace to have been beaten or wrested out by the driver. The practice of cutting the heel-tendons of sheep before they enter the town, in order that the drivers may have less trouble with them in passing through the streets (a practice, the alleged necessity for which would be removed by the employing of a larger number of drivers) is, your committee have reason to believe, by no means uncommon. Such things, call, as they conceive, for the animadversion of those who are desirous to lessen the sufferings of brute animals; and, in their present uncertainty of the disposition of the laws as to such practices, your committee do strongly recommend it to the individuals of the society, to shew their disapprobation of those who perpetrate or authorize them, by withholding from them their support in the way of trade. The other part of their plan, viz. the diffusion of such a spirit as should be incompatible with the spirit of cruelty to animals, might be effected by publishing, in a cheap form, books inculcating principles of gentleness towards the brute part of the creation. In this mode, they conceive that great good might be done, especially by the influence produced on the minds of the young. It appears especially desirable that whilst you set forth to the public a definition of your objects, you should also give some pledge as to the spirit of your future proceedings. They would propose, therefore, that you should, from the very beginning, disclaim all those mean and deceptive arts, by which men often gain intelligence; all encouragement to caves droppers, to creeping enquirers, to men who wear the semblance of friendship in order that they may the more effectually betray.

They propose also, that, in animadverting on the abuse which may be brought to light around you, you should not confine your remarks to the poor. The duty to be tender to the inferior creatures, they hold to be obligatory on men of every rank; and a rich man, who wantonly abuses his power over a brute animal, ought, they conceive, the more especially to be an object of censure, because his example may operate the more largely as a supposed warrant. In your individual capacities, they would recommend to you, that you should expel the spirit of cruelty altogether from your own houses; that you should allow none of those practices to exist within the range of your influence, by which brute animals are made to suffer pain, either for the mere amusement of men, or for the gratification of a pampered luxury. Lastly, they recommend it to you, both individually and collectively, that in pursuing the objects of your association, you should display the greatest steadiness and calmness; especially that you should in every instance, be on the surest grounds convinced of the existence of an evil, before you prefer a complaint. There is such a thing as intemperance in benevolence, and the virtue may be degraded in the public estimation, and rendered fruitless in its efforts, by a union with precipitancy of judgment. Whilst the hope that the members of this society will keep themselves alive to the objects of the association, and omit no rational or manly mode of promoting those objects, they also express the hope that no plan may be adopted which may carry with it a frittering of exertion, and which may justly subject the society to any portion of that reproach which many may, at the first starting, be disposed to affix to it, the reproach of being frivolous and vexatious.

DOMESTIC OCCURRENCES.

IRISH.

ULSTER.

Marriages...Mr. J. McGrath to Miss McDowell, both of Linnburn.

Mr. F. Brande, commander of the brig Neptune of New York, to Miss Blackwood of Belfast.

Hill St. Stott, esq. of Dromore, to Miss

E. Magennis, daughter of the late D. Magennis, esq. of Annesvale.

Mr. W. Gamble, to Miss Reid of Belfast.

Mr. Dalry of Armagh, to Miss Dalry of Ballycastle.

The Rev. James Strange Rutson, sec

the Bishop of Clonfert, to Miss Hesty Sinclair, daughter of the late W. Sinclair, esq.

Mr. J. Thompson of Londonderry, to Miss Kinkead.

Deaths.... Mr. J. Maine, of Belfast.

Mrs. J. Morris, wife of W. Morris, esq. of the Derry militia.

Mr. J. Cochran of Armagh.

Miss F. Campbell of Armagh.

Mr. W. Dinsmore of Murrow, county Donegal.

At Magherafelt, Mrs. E. Ashe, aged 75 widow of the late Rev. T. Ashe.

Mr. Herman Verdenhalm of London-derry.

At Kilmore, on Friday the 15th instant in the 26th year of his age, Richard Kennedy, M.D. son of the Rev. Thomas Kennedy of that place. Amidst the numbers who attended the funeral, there were few who seemed not more than usually affected. This solemn, this awful procession which speaks to man, telling him in the most impressive language, the vanity of all human pursuits, custom has made a ceremony almost unconnected with one melancholy thought, in the minds of the heedless multitude; they laugh, they talk, and convey with a slow pace, the only semblance of grief, to the silent tomb the remains of those whose hands were never extended to distress but to mitigate the pangs of the sufferer, whose eloquence was never exerted but in behalf of injured virtue, or to confer benefits on their fellow citizens, and whose rectitude of principle made the vicious ashamed in their presence, and respect virtue though they would not imitate their acts.

At the funeral of Mr. Richard Kennedy, people seemed to feel that awful sensation, which often strikes the most thoughtless, when they behold a young person conveyed to the dark and silent tomb. Cut off in early youth, while pleasure dances before, and the virtues alone appear, hope paints the picture of future days in the most fascinating colours, but death with an indiscriminating hand sweeps over the canvas, and leaves a space for other painters and for another subject.

In order to prepare himself for the profession of physic, he studied with ardour in Dublin, Edinburgh, and London, the usual departments of science, and in the Academic halls imbibed that taste for knowledge which led him over the mountain wilds of Scotland, Wales, and Ireland.

His knowledge of chemistry, mineralogy, and botany was extensive, and had the shaft of death spared him a few years, his country, and his friends might have

BELFAST MAG. NO. XXIII.

been pleased with hearing of his extending fame, for truly may it be said that in him science has lost a sincere votary, and one well calculated to illustrate the natural history of Ireland, a country so long neglected, and so peculiarly interesting to all who study the productions of nature.

As a son, he displayed that attachment to his parents which impressed upon the mind of the observer, the idea of a peculiar amiability of disposition, a reverence for their opinions, was his constant guide.

Such was this young man, whom the hand of death has snatched from us, and were the feelings of a friend to whom the veil of modesty was lifted, allowed to float on the full tide of panegyric, much more might be said in praise of this virtuous and enlightened character.

"Deep is the sleep of the dead, low their pillow of dust. No more shall he hear thy voice; no more awake at thy call. When shall it be morn in the grave, to bid the slumberer awake."

LEINSTER.

Marriages.... T. Armstrong, esq. of Altavilla, Queen's county, to Miss Cornelius, daughter of Henry Cornelius, esq.

Mr. R. Smith, to Miss E. Tracy, both of Dublin.

Thomas Taylor, esq. of Dublin castle, to Miss Rebecca Rogers, daughter of the Rev. William Rogers, late of St. Paul's, Dublin.

Z. D. Williams, esq. to Miss Mary Gibton, of Stafford street, Dublin.

Mr. James Costigan, of South Great George's-street, Dublin, to Miss Smyth of North King-street.

At Gallen, King's co. John Matthews Jessop, esq. to Miss Horn of Gallen.

Deaths.... Rev. Richard Joice, of St. Patrick's chapel house, Dublin.

Miss Eliza Hodgson of Buckingham-street.

Mrs. Willis, of Trinity-street, aged 63.

Mrs. Hay, wife of David Hay, esq. deputy barrack-master, Dublin.

At Northumberland-street, Mrs. Anne Ford, widow of Roger Ford, esq.

At Kilkenny, Mrs. Barton, widow of the late John Barton, esq.

Mrs. Mecum, aged 88, mother to Mrs. Lord, Capel-street.

At Leeson street, Joseph Cooke, esq.

MUNSTER.

Marriages.... Jacob Mark, esq. of Cork, to Miss Eliza Godfrey, daughter of Sir William Godfrey, of Bushfield, county Kerry.

James Fitzgerald Massey, esq. jun. to Miss Dunscombe, of Limerick.

N N D

AGRICULTURAL REPORT.

From May 20, till June 20, 1810.

SINCE last Report, the weather has been very dry, and extremely unfavourable to vegetation; the partial rains that have lately fallen have been of considerable use to the crops in several districts where they fill in any great quantity, but in some parts of the country, there has been so little rain, that the flax and corn crops look extremely ill—the grass ground has suffered much by the drought, and some people have been obliged to turn their cattle into the meadows for want of other sustenance, the effects of which, they will severely feel in the ensuing winter, but which might have been prevented by laying down a portion of their land in clover and rye grass, which would have furnished them with an ample and timely supply of green food for their cattle.

As it is now pretty evident that the hay crops will be deficient, and the oats short, there is much reason to expect a scarcity of fodder, the farmers ought therefore to be careful of their straw in the early part of the winter, to prevent as much as possible the consequence of the want of it in spring.

In several parts of the country, the wheat crops are complained of as being thin, and small eared, the long continuance of dry weather immediately after an exceeding wet spring, bound up the soil, and prevented the roots of the wheat from tellering, or stooling as it is generally termed, and there is some reason for thinking it will not prove as productive a crop, as its appearance at an earlier part of the season gave grounds to expect; there is however some variety of sentiment on the subject occasioned by the different prospects in different quarters of the country.

A few weeks more will enable us to decide with greater certainty on the general probable result,

COMMERCIAL REPORT.

By late accounts from the United States of North America, we find that the non-intercourse act has been suspended by their legislature, except in the case of one of the belligerent powers rescinding their decrees, and then it is to be in force against the other. Thus for a time their ports are once more open, but how long this case may continue is involved in that uncertainty, which by a series of mutual blunders has latterly characterized our political relations with that country. If the free intercourse should continue, our merchants will eagerly avail themselves of an outlet for our manufactures, which have latterly been accumulating in warehouses, both at home and abroad, with very small demand for them. The regular sales in linens have latterly been very small, and buyers have been on the watch for what in London, are technically denominated jobs, when the sellers are forced to sell at whatever prices the market will afford. In Ireland the cotton trade is in a state of the deepest depression, while in Great Britain it is in a state of greater activity, partly owing to their more close vicinity to the continent, aided by the large capitals of their merchants, by which the fabrics of cotton are forced into the continent of Europe, and even as report states, into the very city of Paris, notwithstanding the prohibitory decrees of Bonaparte, who is either unable to exclude them, or politically winks at their admission. Another cause of the more favourable state of the cotton manufacture in England and Scotland, may also be referred to their improved machinery, by which the cost of labour is abridged. It is asserted that many of their calicoes are wrought in double looms, and by this contrivance the labour of the weaver is much more productive.

The depressed state of our trade is evinced by the general joy at the partial reconciliation with America: if we are permanently relieved from the heavy pressure brought on through the system of commercial hostility, the over-burthened springs of trade may be expected to resume in a degree some of their former elasticity, and enable us to bear for a time our enormous load of taxation, and the many evils of our paper currency. Thus the day of reckoning may be delayed a little longer, but sooner or later in our commercial and political concerns a crisis may be expected, to which the prudent look forward, with anxiety and alarm.—We have latterly been alarmed by private bankruptcies. What may be the distress attendant on a national catastrophe? Like a wasting expense, of an improvident individual, there has been in our public expenditure, much prodigal expense, and thoughtless anticipation of future revenue. We know that to run profusely in debt is the ruin of individuals, and may we not anticipate a similar fatal result to public prodigality?

In London, Liverpool, Dublin, Limerick, and many of our commercial towns as well as in Belfast, failures have agitated the trading world. Like the overthrow of the flimsy materials of a house of cards, according to the simile of Sir Philip Francis, or like to the slight buildings of a city, where one house props another, the crash has been extensive, and some have fallen victims to the times, by faults not their own.— But in comparison of the few brought down through the errors of others, the majority have fallen by their own imprudence and carelessness. In addition to the causes of insolvency noticed in our last report, the wild and extravagant spirit of speculation, and the facility given to this disposition by the system of paper currency, it may now be added as another cause, that few are willing to accommodate themselves to the increasing pressure of the times and rigidly reduce their expenditure within their income. If this wise precaution is not timely taken, an uneasy, agonizing appearance of show may be kept up, and independence, nay often honesty and strict integrity of principle may be sacrificed, before those on the second floor, will bring their minds to remove to the third, and those of the third will consent to exchange their lodgings for the garret. Yet such is the present state arising from the weight of taxation, and the interruptions of trade, all which evils are resolvable into a long protracted, and destructive war, that necessity imperiously demands a reduction of expenses, and in many cases by acting on a diminished and contracted scale, to avoid the evils of poverty. Among the evils incident to this state the loss of a virtuous independence is the most to be depreciated, and against which the man of honour, in the just acceptation of that often abused word, should by every honest means in his power scrupulously guard himself and his family.

To live within income, and thus to secure independence is our prime duty, and stands high in the catalogue of moral virtues. Let income be large or small, every one should live within it. We should not then meet with so many venal statesmen, and senators, desperately adventurous merchants, or overreaching tradesmen. The difficulties of pinching circumstances arising from too great expences often drive statesmen to barter their votes and their consciences, to repair their improvidence, merchants to overtrade unnaturally, to force profits, to equalize expenditure. They also introduce all that petty warfare in our every day's intercourse, "whose minute invasions vex the private scene," and through the various gradations of society justify the remark of Dr. Johnson, that although he found mankind more benevolent, yet they were less just than he expected. Nothing contributes more to a departure from the rule of strict and delicate justice, than an indulgence in living above our means.

Some shameful and disgraceful instances of forgery have lately appeared in the town of Belfast. In a commercial community this is a crime of great magnitude, and in our present situation, as to the extension of paper, the facilities and temptations to commit it are greatly multiplied. Such practices not being suspected, were less liable to be detected in the first attempts.

The Lagan Canal being now in the train to be improved by a company formed for that purpose, the many obstructions to an expeditious conveyance by it, may probably be soon removed. Hitherto its benefits to the country have not been as extensive, as a trading and populous district requires.

On an application from the merchants of Belfast, they have been informed by the Board of Trade, that licences would be granted to export barilla and potash to France, in vessels which brought wheat from that country. They cannot avail themselves of this liberty in this country directly, as there has been no importation of grain wanting here from France, and it is said Bonaparte has lately refused licences to export wheat, unless part of the cargoes consists in wine and brandy. The entire system of licences is a severe check on trade, and is an effect arising from the wretched plan of government interfering in the affairs of trade, by their Orders in Council. As licences are managed, they form a powerful engine in the hands of government, to extend their influence among the trading interests, and in London, they are often, it is asserted, made subservient to the purpose of securing parliamentary support to the ministers.

A committee of the house of commons have been investigating the present state of the coinage and paper currency. They have given in a report which we have not yet seen, but we understand, they in opposition to the vote and inclination of the minister, who was a member of it, have recommended that after the space of two years, the national banks should pay their notes under £5 in specie. Does this report of the bullion committee afford a glimpse of a return of gold in our currency? Or may we not rather expect that even if such a return of guineas is practicable, mini-

terial finesse will previously to the period proposed frustrate so salutary a measure? It is supposed by many to be more than doubtful, that our national banks have no fund of gold to answer the demand such a restoration of specie payments would require.

Exchange in Belfast has been this month about $8\frac{1}{2}$ for bills on London, and discount on bank-notes is now reduced to about $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.

NATURALIST'S REPORT.

From May 20, till June 20.

LET no presuming, impious railer tax
Creative wisdom, as if aught was form'd
In vain, or not for admirable ends.

THOMSON.

PERHAPS the strongest deviation from the general laws of nature, is exhibited by the common Cuckoo, which visits us every Spring, and staying but a few months retires, after its monotonous call has aroused our attention to the progress of the season, and raised our many conjectures to unravel her mysterious and unnatural conduct. To every country boy it is well known that the cuckoo attaches to herself immediately after her arrival an attendant, and a nurse, but what is the cause of this attachment is yet unknown; the tit lark, the wag-tail, and the hedge sparrow, are most commonly the birds over whom this apparent magic spell is thrown, and who like human hirelings attend to this foster child with an assiduity uninterrupted by cares for their own offspring; that this is the constant conduct of our cuckoos has been ascertained to be fact, by numerous, and well authenticated observations, but whether more young are reared by this propensity of cuckoos than if they pursued the ways of other birds, or whether it is in order to allow the cuckoo to retire and propagate the species in other regions, during the course of our Northern Summer, has not been ascertained; certain it however is, that cuckoos are often to be found, even in the middle of September, but some naturalists say, that these are only the young birds of the season, the old ones having retired immediately after laying.

May 21; Common Buck-bean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*) flowering.

23, Yellow Pontic Azalea (*Azalea Pontica*) flowering.

25, Common Herrings (*Clupea Harengus*) now caught on our coast.

26, Fine leaved Peony (*Pœonia tenuifolia*) Cluster Cherry (*Prunus padus*) Purple Lilac (*Syringa Vulgaris*) and bulbous meadow Crowfoot (*Ranunculus bulbosus*) flowering. Ragwort Moth (*Phalæna Jacobæa*) and Dropwort Sphinx (*Sphinx Filipendulæ*) appearing.

27, Red Campion (*Lychnis Dioica*) Yellow Pimpernel (*Lysimachia nemorum*) and common Hawthorn (*Cratægus Oxyacantha*) flowering.

28, Crimson flowered Peony (*Pœonia peregrina*) flowering.

30, Dwarf Sunflower (*Cistus Helianthemum*) and Hypericum Frutex (*Spiræa Hypericifolia*) flowering.

31, White Campion (*Lychnis Vespertina*) and Double White Narcissus (*Narcissus Poeticus*) flowering.

June 1, Three edged Garlic (*Allium triquetrum*) flowering.

2, Silver-weed (*Potentilla Anserina*) Rusty leaved Rose bay (*Rhododendron ferrugineum*) Pontic Rosebay (*Rhododendron Ponticum*) Naked flowering upright Honeysuckle (*Azalea nudiflora*) Yellow Poppy (*Papaver Cambricum*) and Oriental Poppy (*Papaver Orientale*) flowering.

3, Aconite leaved Cranesbill (*Geranium Aconitifolios*) and entire leaved Peony (*Pœonia Corralina*) flowering.

4, Wall Hawkweed (*Hieracium Murorum*) Maritime Catchfly (*Silene Maritima*) and Ladies finger (*Anthyllis vulneraria*) flowering.

5, Mouse ear Hawkweed (*Hieracium Pilosella*) Water Cresses (*Sisymbrium Nasturtium*) Flags (*Iris Pseudo Acorus*) and Male Orchis (*Orchis mascula*) flowering.

7, Water Violet (*Hottonia Palustris*) in full flower. Irish Rose (*Rosa Hibernica*) Dark red thornless rose (*Rosa pendulina*) Laburnum (*Cytisus Laburnum*) Common Purple Lilac (*Syringa Vulgaris*, var.) Persian Lilac (*Syringa Persica*) flowering.

10, Fox glove (*Digitalis purpurea*) and Marsh Orchis (*Orchis latifolia*) flowering.

14, Striped barked broom (*Spartum striatum*) and yellow Rattle (*Rhinanthus Crista Galli*) flowering.

15, Bulb bearing Lily (*Lilæum Bulbiferum*) flowering.

- 17, Beautiful Cistus (*Cistus formosus*) and Connaught Heath (*Menziesia Polifolia* of Jussieu)
 18, Ovate leaved Phlox (*Phlox ovata*) flowering
 19, Cuckoo (*Cuculus Canorus*) yet calling.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

From May 20, till June 20.

WITHIN the memory of many inhabitants of Belfast, the Western shore of Belfast harbour was a hard sand, on which they could walk dry at low water (some old people say they used to go from the Point Fields to the White House point) the same places are now covered with deep mud, the only way of accounting for this, is by the wind having driven for a series of years, a large quantity of wreck in upon the shore, which, on putrifying, has produced the present mud. From observations on the winds for some years, it would appear that something like a periodical revolution takes place, and from the more than usual steadiness of the wind towards the East, driving in a strong surge, there is reason to believe many parts of the shore will soon be free from the mud as before, for some parts this last season, are become visibly more sandy.

May 21,	Wet, with hail and thunder.
22,	Wet morning, a fine day.
23,	Wet morning, middle dry, evening wet.
24,	Wet.
25, 31, . . .	Fine dry days.
June 1, 3 . . .	Fine.
4,	Heavy showers, and some thunder in the morning.
5,	Fine.
6, 10, . . .	Dark cold day.
12,	Heavy shower in the evening.
13,	Light showers.
14, 17, . . .	Fine dry days.
18,	Light rain.
19,	Wet.
20,	Fine.

Notwithstanding the changes which have taken place, the Barometer has been almost stationary at 30 inches.

The lowest state of the Thermometer was on the 22d of May, when it stood at 46; the rest of the time it was as high as usual for the season, the highest was on the morning of the 3d of June, when it stood at 63.

The wind has had an Easterly direction for the most part of our last period, being N.E. 10; S.E. 6; E. 1; S.W. 7; N.W. 6 times.

CELESTIAL PHENOMENA.

FOR JULY 1810.

On the first of the month we have new Moon at six minutes past ten in the evening, but without producing an eclipse.

5th, She is under the first of the Lion, but past the line drawn through the third and first, and produced. She is directing her course under the body of the Lion, to the five stars in the triangle in the Virgin.

10th, She is seen between the first of the Virgin, and the two first stars of the Balance, but nearest to the former star, above her is the tenth of the Virgin. At nine she is 62 deg. 40 min. from the first of the Lion, and 37½ deg. from Antares.

15th, She is on the Meridian at 19 min. past 11, P.M. the small stars in the head of the Archer being under her, and the two first stars of the Goat, to which she is directing her course, being considerably to the East of her. At nine she is 68 deg. 28 min. from the first Pegasus, and 36 deg. 3 min. from Antares.

20th, She rises under the four stars in the square, in the space between the lines, drawn through the two eastern, and the two western of these stars and produced, but she does not before sunrise, reach the line drawn through the two eastern stars.

24th, She rises under the line between the first three stars of the Ram, and the Pleiades, but nearest to the latter stars.

31st, We shall have new moon at eleven min. past ten, A.M. but without producing an eclipse, as she is upwards of 4 deg. south of the ecliptic.

Mercury is a morning star during this month, being stationary on the second, and at his greatest elongation on the thirteenth. At first he is too near the horizon to be visible, but for a few days before, and after the thirteenth, he will arrest the attention of the early riser, and give, with Jupiter and Aldebaran, brilliancy to the eastern sky. The moon passes him on the 30th.

Venus is an evening star, and will be seen soon after sun-set, in the W.N.W. Her motion is direct through about 37 deg. being at first near to, but so the east of the Nebula, between the third and fourth of the Crab, and finishing her course under the second of the Lion, at a point between the 18th and 22d of this constellation. The moon passes her on the fourth.

Mars is a morning star, too near the sun to be visible till towards the latter end of the month, when he will catch the attention of a few observers, being then under the two first stars of the Twins. The moon passes him on the 1st.

Jupiter is a morning star, increasing his duration above the horizon, before sun-rise every morning. His motion is direct through above 54 deg. and he passes early in this month, the line between the Pleiades, and the first of the Whale, being very considerably nearer to the former stars. The moon passes him on the 25th.

Saturn passes our meridian at 56 min. past nine on the first, and at 25 min. past eight, on the 19th, his motion is retrograde through 14 deg. When he is on the meridian on the first, we may perceive below him, Antares to the west; and the groupe formed by him, Antares, and the second star of the Scorpion, will, by almost imperceptible variations every night, show the slow motion of this planet. The moon passes him on the 19th.

Herschell is an evening star, and we shall be guided to him by the first of the Balance, and as he is stationary on the 17th, we cannot fail of discovering him to the west of this star, from which he is slowly receding. The moon passes him on the 11th.

ECLIPSES OF JUPITER'S SATELLITES.

1st SATELLITE.				2d SATELLITE.				3d SATELLITE.							
<i>Immersion.</i>				<i>Immersion.</i>											
DAYS.	H.	M.	S.	DAYS.	H.	M.	S.	DAYS.	H.	M.	S.	DAYS.	H.	M.	S.
2	3	38	25	1	19	33	17	6	13	24	50 im.				
3	22	6	57	5	8	51	52	6	15	25	7 E.				
5	16	35	25	8	22	9	45	13	17	24	55 Im.				
7	11	3	57	12	11	28	24	13	19	25	10 E.				
9	5	32	24	16	0	46	17	20	21	24	37 Im.				
11	0	0	55	19	14	5	0	20	23	25	6 E.				
12	18	29	22	23	3	22	54	28	1	24	24 Im.				
14	12	57	52	26	16	41	41	28	3	25	8 E.				
16	7	26	17	30	5	59	36								
18	1	54	47												
19	20	23	13												

Look to the right hand.

* First Satellite Continued.

21	14	51	41
23	9	20	6
25	3	49	54
26	22	16	28
28	16	45	26
30	11	13	50

ERRATA.

VOL. 3, PAGE 311.

Col. 1, l. 25, for Kittaco read Kittaco.
Gymothorax read Gymnothorax.
38, Pistulari read Pistularia.
43, Vespertili read Vespertilio.

Col. 2, l. 3, Pleuronectes read Pleuronectes.
7, Aracabu read Aracabu.
10, Koosa read Koosa.
11, Priate read Priate.
22, Jaina read Jaina.
33, arma read armata.

Col. 2, l. 35, Sphyrona read Sphyrone.
37, Orikotachi read Okikotachi.
40, Firaal Sombor read Firaal Sombor.

VOL. 4.

Page 441, l. 23, Goldfishes read Goldfish.
381, 1st col. 24th line, for larcenier' read larcenier.
Page 371, 2d col. 11th line, for Hualapia read Hualapia.

INDEX,

TO VOL. IV. FROM JANUARY TILL JUNE 1810.

A

Anderson, remarks on a passage of	81
Addresses, on public	101
Agricultural Reports	74, 156, 285, 399
Anton, the tomb of	256
Anecdotes, detached,	123, 201, 288
Anecdotes of Miss Pyecrust	351
Anna, verses to	292
Apothecaries, caution to	300
Archibald's patent	294
Arithmetic, new mode of teaching	83
Aromatic vinegar, preparation of	135
Arracacha, on the plant	459
Association, mechanics	167
Asylums, on lunatic	1, 162 344
Astucious on classical studies	172
Aurora Borealis, on the	324
A. Z. on the dominical letter	161

B

Ballymena, tour to, from Newtown-	
limavaddy	91
Barges, on the motion of	126
Barton's, Mr. John, patent	131
Barilla, queries relative to	111
Barony of Upper Fews	
Barreaux's, verses translated	100, 124
Bean stalks, hemp got from	215
Beds, moss used for	293
Bedding for the poor, on providing	323
Bee and mole, a fable	45
Beevan's Mr. on composition for roofs	380
Bellast, names of the sovereigns of,	
&c.	176
——, house of industry	261
Benezet, life of Anthony	117
Bibliography,	37, 117, 194, 277, 364
Birds, on the migration of	403
Bleaching, answer to queries on	185, 276
Borealis, Aurora, on the	324
Bradbury's patent	50
Broom plant, on the	459
Burgeyne, Montagu, esq. address at	
Essex	227
Brewing, patent for improvement in	293
Burdett, Sir Francis letter to his constituents	312
Burgeynes of Belfast, names of	176

C

Cann's, Mr. C. Le, patent	452
Cann's, trials at	231

Carrickfergus, charter of	432
Carriages, third report on	186, 430
Catholic Bishops, resolutions of	230
Catholics, resolutions of committee of, at Dublin	148
——, petition of	228
Catholics, English, resolutions of	142
——, petition of	229
—— of Limerick, resolutions of	69
Calculary conversations, effects of magnetism, on	218
Calendar of Flora	45
Calumniators, stories for, reviewed	126
Caution to druggists and apothecaries,	300
Celestial phenomena,	79, 159, 239, 320, 402, 479
Charter schools, Mr. Edgeworth's report on	13
Check for carriages, patent	452
Christians petition	468
Classical studies, on	172
Coining, trial for, at Carrickfergus	23
Column, dry electric, of De Luc	301, 384
Commercial reports,	75, 156, 236, 317, 399, 476
Common hall, meeting at, in London	146
Common council of London, resolutions of	466
Compatibility of feeling and judgment	350
Composition for roofs	133, 380
Cotton, Bradbury's patent for spinning	50
Corn Indian, adapted to cold climates	184
Conspiracy of Downes and Reynolds for swindling	153
Court of Juno (continued)	27, 103
Cowper, William the poet, account of	37
Cupping instrument, new	217
Currency, paper, on	21
Criminal law, review of Romilly's pamphlet on	355
Cycles, on the	161
Crone, James convicted for robbing messrs. John and Jacob Hancock of linen	234

D

Davy's, Mr. experiments on nitroge,	56
&c.	

- Davenport's Mr. patent 48
 Depreciation of paper currency 21
 De Heine's patent 379
 De Luc's electric column 301, 384
 Demoness, the married 417
 Derry resolutions relative to the li-
 brary 72
 Descroizilles', M. violet pickle 51
 Detached anecdotes 123, 201, 283
 Dialogue between Sir John Tallyho
 and Mr. Freeman 182
 Dialogue on taste 404
 Dispatch from M. Barillon, transla-
 tion of 259
 Documents, official 64, 142, 227, 310,
 390
 Domestic occurrences, 71, 153, 231, 312,
 398
 Dominical letter and cycles, on the 161
 Douaghy, Thomas tried for stealing a
 cow 231
 Druggists, caution to 300
 Dry voltaic pile, by Mr. Forster 301
 Dumbell's patent 211

E

 Earthen walls, mode of making 381
 Edgeworth, Mr. on charter schools 13
 — on carriages 425
 Education, national 101
 Electric column, De Luc's, 301, 384, 461
 Elegy, an 445
 Emphysalgia, or gentel ache, on 408
 Epistle to Dr. Fell 6

F

 Farewell the, by J.P. *verse* 291
 Fairies, essay on 171
 Fell, epistle to Dr. 6
 Files and rasps, substitute for 298
 —, improved for vouchers 299
 Flora, calendar of 45
 Flat roof, method of making 133, 380
 Flax, broom 184
 Folsch's patent 51
 Forster's dry voltaic pile 301
 Francis, Sir P's pamphlet 204
 Friend, epistle to a 203
 Foreign literature 283, 373, 446

G

 Geddes, Dr. epitaph on 111
 Geographical slates, patent for 212
 Glass, patent for ornamenting 48
 Glencoe massacre 445
 Gold scarcity of, Sir P. Francis on 204
 Grenville's, Lord, letter relative to
 the Oxford election 69

H

 Hancock's, Mr John, letter to Sir Sa-
 muel Romilly 216
 —, Dr. on lunatic asylums 1, 162,
 314
 Haughton, verses on the death of Ben-
 jamin 293
 Healy, Dr. on his new cupping glass 217
 Heines' De, patent for a new press 373
 Hemp, mode of preparing, from bean
 stalks 215
 Hint on vaccination 111
 History, on Persian, by Mirkhond 99
 House of industry of Belfast 261
 Houses, earthen walls for 381
 H.S. reply of, to remarks on Scotch
 law, &c 81
 — answer to his reply, by N. 89
 Hutton's patent reaping hooks 133

I

 Jeu d'esprit 203
 Ignorance, on 4
 I love to be alone 373
 I.M.S. answer by, to queries on
 bleaching 185
 Inconstant, verses to the 203
 Inventions nautical, of Mr. Treve-
 thick 212, 293
 Ink, permanent 461
 Institute French, proceedings of 373
 I.P. verses by 291, 292
 Ireland, on the round towers of 111
 Juno, court of (continued) 27, 103
 Isambard's patent for cutting veneers 278

K

 K. papers by 111, 254
 King's speech on opening the session
 of parliament 69

L

 Law criminal, Sir S. Romilly's pam-
 phlet 353
 L. answer by, to queries on bleaching 276
 Letter from Sir F. Burdett to his con-
 stituents 312
 — to a student at college, by S.R. 95
 Libertine, the repentant of Barreaux 208
 Linch pin, preventer, for carriages 433
 Lines on Newton, French 125
 List of new publications 46, 129, 219, 302,
 385
 Literature, foreign 283, 373, 446
 Livery of London, resolutions of 64, 391
 — petition of 393
 Love, from the French, *verse* 44
 Lucy, verses to 124, 291
 Lunatic asylums 1, 162, 344

M

 Magnesia for calculous disorders 218
 Manley's patent plough 132
 Man, verses on his original and pre-
 sent state 378
 Manners, on national 95
 Margarita, version of an Irish poem 289
 Marshall's Mr. John, patent 451
 Martin, tried for stealing a mare 233
 Mechanicus, observations on his pa-
 per 18
 Medical reports 77
 Medicus non, on vaccination 111
 Mediocrity, on 406
 Meeting, Westminster 319

- Melissa, lines to 392
 Merit obscure, on encouraging 180
 Meteorological reports 78, 159, 239, 319
 401, 479
 Middlesex resolutions, and petition
 of freeholders of 391
 — address to Sir F. Burdett 295
 Military expeditions 471
 Mirkhond, on Persian history 99
 Mole and bee, a fable 43
 Moss used for beds 298
 M'Culloch, Alexander, trial for his
 murder 313
 N
 Names of the sovereigns, &c. of Bel-
 fast 176
 National education 101
 — manners 93
 Naturalist's reports 78, 158, 238, 319 400
 478
 Nautical inventions of Mr. Treve-
 thick 52, 212, 295
 Nemorensis' answer to H.S. 89
 — court of Juno, by 27, 103
 — verses by, to Margarita 289
 Newry, address of the inhabitants of
 to Duke of Richmond 67
 New publications, list of 46, 129, 219, 302
 385
 Nitrogen Mr. Davy's experiments on 55
 Nose, verses on the fate of a 203
 Nottingham, resolutions of the town
 of 469
 — address to Sir F. Bur-
 dett 470
 O
 Observations on criminal law, Sir S.
 Romilly's 353
 Obscure merit, on encouraging 180
 Ode to winter 124
 Occurrences, public 70, 148, 230, 312
 Official Documents 64, 142, 227, 310,
 390, 466
 Orr, G. R. esq. on motion of barges 136
 P
 Paper currency, on its depreciation 21
 — Sir P. Francis, on 204
 Passage in Addison, remarks on a 81
 Permannet ink, berries which yield 461
 Persian history, on 99
 Phenomena, celestial 79, 159, 239, 320
 402, 479
 Phelps on the death of Thomas 201
 Philadelphia prison, on the 412
 Philomusus, on national education 101
 Pickle of violets, for a text 51
 Plough, patent for a 132
 Pocock's patent for geographical
 slates 212
 Polish of manners, on national 93
 Political retrospect 57, 138, 221, 304, 380
 463
 Politeness, Scotch, reply to remarks
 on 88
 Poor, on providing bedding for the 323
 Populace, on disseminating writings
 among the 321
 Primrose, verses on a 371
 Printing on stone, 455
 Prison of Philadelphia, account of 527
 Presses, patent for improvements in 379
 Publications, list of new 46, 129, 219
 302, 383, 461
 Public addresses, on 101
 — occurrences, 70, 148, 230, 312, 473
 Punishments, on capital, by Sir S. Ro-
 milly 353
 Puzzolana, red, of Jamaica 453
 Pyecrust anecdotes of Miss 351
 Q
 Queries relative to potash and basil-
 la 111
 — answer to do. 185
 — do. by L. 276
 Questus Shenkinii 125
 R
 Rags made of stone ware 298
 Reading, an essay on 407
 Reaping hooks, patent for new 133
 Regulations of the Belfast house of
 dustry 261
 Remarks on a passage in Addison 81
 Report on roads, wheels, &c. 3d. 186, 430
 Retrospect of politics 57, 138, 221, 304
 386, 463
 Roche, patent of Mr. for brewing 293
 Roland, life of Madame 194, 277
 Roof flat, composition for 133, 380
 Roscoe's address on the Liverpool bo-
 tanic garden 247
 Round towers of Ireland 111
 S
 Sainclair, continued 9, 84, 269
 Salmon, Mr. on making earthen walls 381
 Salt, patent for making 451
 Salting vegetables for distillation 51
 Seventh day night (verse) 45
 Shenkin's complaint (verse) 193
 Sickles and reaping hooks, patent 153
 Simple, Tabitha, her letter 25
 Sisters, verses to the, by J.P. 291
 Slates, geographical, patent 212
 Song to Anna 292
 Sovereigns of Belfast, names of 176
 Spinning, Bradbury's patent for 50
 Stanley and Morland (a tale) 405
 Statistical lamp, Barton's patent 131
 Stories, Mr. Trotter's, reviewed 126
 Student at college, letter to a, by S.E. 99
 — answers to do. 275, 347
 Studies, Atticus on classical 172
 Swiss soldier on hearing the ranz du
 vache 371
 O o o

T		
Tabitha Simple's letter	25	
Tadlyho, Sir John, and Mr. Freeman	182	
Thompson, Rev. Mr. robbery of his house, trial for,	231	
Thomason's, Mrs. Phillis, patent	452	
T's observations on S.E.'s letter	275	
Tomb of Aiton	256	
Translation of a dispatch from M. Barrillon	255	
Translations of Barreaux's hymn	100, 124	
Trevethick's nautical inventions	52, 212	
	295	
Turnbull, Mr. R. on Philadelphia prisons	327, 412	
U		
Umbrella, patent	452	
Upper Fews, description of	168	
V		
Vaccination, Non Medicus on	111	
Valentine to Lucy	124	
Vegetables salted for distillation	51	
Veneers, Isambard's patent for cutting	373	
Version of an Irish poem to Margarita	289	
Verses on the death of a young lady	444	
Vision, the court of Juno, a	27, 103	
Vinegar aromatic	135	
Violet pickle	51	
Voltaic pile, dry	361, 384	
Vouchers, new file for	299	
W		
Wakefield, life of Gilbert	437	
Water salt, patent for distilling	294	
Weaving, new method of	166	
Westminster address	310	
— resolutions of the inhabitant householders of, and petition to the king	142	
Window blinds, patent	212	
Winter, ode to	124	
Woman verses to, by J.P.	291	
Wool and cotton, patent for spinning	50	
Write, cheap mode of teaching to	229	
Writing pen, patent	51	
Writings, sold to the populace, on	521	
X		
X's observations on J.R.'s paper	18	

